

Public Libraries

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Advertising the Public Library*

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One of the most remarkable and valuable developments of the last 50 years has been the establishment and growth of the belief in public education.

It is easy to find individuals who owe practically their whole education to public libraries. One such was the late Joseph Pulitzer, publisher and owner of the New York *World*, who came to this country in 1864 a poor Hungarian working boy. St. Louis became his home and in his spare moments he learned English, American history, politics, philosophy, and economics and acquired through his readings and through his experience as a newspaper reporter a knowledge of public affairs and of human nature, and an ability to express himself in powerful journalistic style. He fully credited his rise in journalism to the education which he gained in the public library.

The influence of the public library, wherever felt, has always been for good. One may say that the modern public library building, the book collections, and the library methods form an excellent machine for serving society's educational and cultural needs. There may be, and no doubt are, places for improvement in each of these particulars. Nothing is perfect.

But good as the public libraries are they are not a dividend paying proposition *from a business standpoint*. The machinery is there, the need for work is there, but somehow or other the two fail

to connect as often as need be to make the library a paying concern.

Some will say that the value of the work of a library cannot be estimated in terms of dollars and cents, and that there is a social dividend that is of far higher value. This is true.

But cannot the public library do more than that? If it reaches 5,000 readers now, cannot it increase that number to 10,000? If so, the library is now only 50 per cent efficient.

What must be accomplished by a library in order to put it on a dividend paying basis from the business standpoint?

First, let us make our comparisons between the work of the public library and what a private, profit seeking institution would do if it were engaged in the same work as the library. Suppose that a city of 9,000 population has a public library building and grounds worth \$25,000 and about 10,000 v. The cost of running that library on a business basis would be as follows:

Interest on capital invested in plant at 6% per annum.....	\$1,500
Depreciation of plant at 2% per annum	500
Current running expenses, books, salaries, etc.	2,500

Total \$4,500

The library would have to earn by its services to the public not less than \$4,500 per year just to pay expenses. Whatever it earns above \$4,500 will be available for dividends; will in fact, be true profit for society.

Any estimate of the average value of library services must of course be more

*Summary of paper read at the Wisconsin library association meeting, February 21, 1912.

or less arbitrary but from the experience of private business circulating libraries we may assume that five cents per week for every book loaned, and three cents for each visit made to the reading rooms, will be a fair charge for such services.

For purposes of illustration let us suppose that two-thirds of the income results from loaning books and that one-third comes from the use of the reading room. Upon this basis it would require that there should be 60,000 books loaned for the average period of one week, and 50,000 reading room visits during the year. This amount of service and no less will barely pay costs of running the library from a business standpoint. To make the library profitable from the same standpoint, it must yield services beyond this amount.

In an average city of 9,000 population there are probably 6,000 persons who could if they would, use the library. Such service as that indicated above would mean an average of 10 books per year for each person, and 8 1/3 visits by each person. But such a city is not dependent upon its own population alone for readers. There is in most cases a thickly populated surrounding country entirely dependent upon the city for commercial purposes; why not for library purposes?

It may be urged that at a number of places my illustration is arbitrary and defective. This is admitted, but let any library measure its efficiency according to some such methods and few will be able to show expenses paid to say nothing of profits.

It is now clear that the library is not as efficient as it might be because there are not enough people using it, and, partly, that the people who do use it do not use it enough.

Let us inquire into the causes of the failure of the people to use the library.

1. In nearly every town there are some people, generally new comers or foreigners, who do not even know that there is a public library there.

2. There are certain classes beyond the reach of the library such as those who are totally illiterate.

3. Many people know that there is a public library in town, but they don't know that it has anything that will be of interest or value to them. In some cases the library does not have the books in the language that the individual can read, and in some other cases it has not the books with subject matter that will interest.

4. Some people are timid about going to the library because it is a "dress up" place where stylish people congregate. It is too troublesome and takes too much time to get ready to go, hence they don't go there; but there is no hesitation about going to the grocery, the butcher shop, the confectionery stand, the billiard hall or the saloon without fixing up.

5. A few don't like to read. They haven't the study habit, hence are not attracted by the library.

6. Some people stay away because they don't like the library administration. This may be due to some fancied or real slight or injury, received in the past, wholly unintentional on the part of the librarians, but probably due to some little lack of tact at the right place. Business men running retail stores know much more about the real significance and money value of tact than we professional people do. We have much to learn in that field in which success swings largely upon tact. Then, in some small towns, certain people stay away from the library because the librarian belongs to the *other* society or clique.

There may be other reasons, but these six probably explain why the majority of those that could come, do stay away from the library.

There are other uses, some of them well recognized, to which a public library plant might be put, which, if carried out, would increase its efficiency. The library is naturally an educational center, a repository of learning and culture. If the building will permit, it is only a step to extending the library's activities into the holding of classes, lectures, university extension meetings and so on. It is often the location, and very properly so, of the

public museums, of fine arts, commercial arts, natural and social history. The building itself may have value to the community as an example of architectural and civic art. Beauty and art of the buildings help to draw trade, and the beauty and art of the library structure should help to extend the library's usefulness in its working capacity.

The library, if properly located, might well be the city's intelligence office. It could be the central employment bureau, and surely should be the city's advertising or boosting headquarters. Other activities might be named, but these will suggest the lines along which the library can be made to pay dividends to the city, in addition to its regular service to readers of its books and magazines.

Now what is to be done to increase the efficiency of the library? In other words, to make it pay? It is clear that two things must be done. First, the library must provide suitable service, and second, it must advertise that service so that the people may know about it.

The service provided will consist of suitable books and magazines, the kinds that the various classes of people in the particular city will read. The library should be made democratic in both ideal and practice. Finally the extension activities which properly belong in the public library's sphere need to be exploited. In most cities it would seem that the plan should be to "pay all expenses" of the library by the service of its books and magazines, thus leaving the library extension activities as pure dividends to the community.

Most libraries are already well equipped mechanically for "delivering the goods." The place where they fail is in letting the people know about it and in creating interest where none now exists. This is the function of advertising, and this is the next great step in the advance of your institutions.

How shall this be done? There are several practical methods. One of the oldest and most effective of these is the personal work of the librarian.

Effective advertising may be had by

getting the co-operation of the teachers in the schools, the Sunday school workers, the preachers in the churches, the employers of labor, the trade union officials and co-operation with literary societies. No organization in the city should be overlooked.

The mail may be used most effectively for distributing carefully selected addresses, library bulletins, or house organs, circulars, booklets and form letters.

The house organ or bulletin is an excellent idea. But this form of advertising is expensive. Circulars and form letters are possible for every library, and issued from time to time make direct appeals to definite classes of people concerning the offerings.

There is a variety of advertising ideas that public libraries can borrow from the commercial field. Cards or notices properly framed and hung in hotels and other public locations will increase the use of the reading room. A good electric sign will call attention for several blocks around about it, that the library is open evenings and is ready for business. Some libraries are dark looking and forbidding in appearance after nightfall. This cuts down efficiency.

Architectural conditions and principles have forbidden the use of windows in the library for display purposes. Here is where the corner book store and profit-making circulating library beat the public library. (Is it not a wonder that the public libraries really do as well as they do?)

One thing, however, that the library can do to obviate this difficulty is to place a large bulletin board right next the sidewalk, and post on it daily the titles of books that need pushing to get them into the hands of readers.

How shall a library begin to carry out such an educational propaganda as I have suggested? The first essential is that the movement shall begin only after the most complete preparations. To do otherwise would be to waste energy, time and money.

(Concluded next month.)

How May a Public Library Help City Government?*

William H. Allen, director, Training school for public service, New York City

In three general ways may a library promote efficient government in its community:

1. By doing efficiently the traditional service of a library, i. e., by being prompt, up-to-date, pleasant to look at and to be with.

2. By stimulating and encouraging efficient team work among the social educational and governmental agencies of its community, such as women's clubs, board of trade, teachers' associations, debating societies, etc. The only fountain of youth ever found is the library that exerts a constant pressure from all significant old truths, plus properly related and digested new truths.

3. By being efficient as a conscious influencer of government standards, conscious student of community needs, conscious helper of those who are trying to understand and improve government.

Direct service to government can never fully compensate for failure to be an efficient library any more than benevolence can take the place of efficient citizenship. But direct service to government will almost inevitably increase a library's general efficiency, because the library will find it easier to be efficient if it constantly measures itself against what it might do and ought to do for the thing nearest to everybody in its community, i. e., city government.

Interest in government increases interest in every other library service because all other human activities reflect themselves somewhere, some way, in things done or things not yet done which ought to be done, by government.

I doubt if any act of the New York public library ever made so strong and direct an appeal to so many people as its announcement that it would welcome an opportunity to organize for the city government a municipal reference library on government business.

It is not without significance that the great manufacturer who started a foundation for widening the bounds of human knowledge, started another foundation for promoting the efficient use and inter-

pretation of knowledge, helped start the municipal research movement and a national training school for public service, should also be the author of "Triumphant democracy" and the public library king. Libraries are exotic growths until they discover and serve the governments which in the main support them.

City government needs the public library's help. Without the help of the libraries, government cannot reach the efficiency which we have the right to demand. Without adequate help from government, public libraries can but partially fulfill their mission.

Library aid is indispensable to government because classified facts are indispensable to sound judgment and classified facts are impossible without libraries. No town, not even New York City, can have or will have a large number of fact centers. Hence, if communities are to have available for their government, their own experience and that of other communities, they must have libraries willing and eager to collect, classify and disseminate this experience.

The library can not do what it is expected to do without money — more money every year. It is not reasonable to expect, or to permit the public to give money unless it understands the only kind of service which a whole community will understand, and regard as a personal favor, service to the agents of everybody, which means government officials and those wishing to affect government action.

For purposes of discussion I beg to suggest the following definite steps for the public library in any community, no matter how small, including even the school library in a community which has as yet no other public library:

1. Keep an up-to-date "Who's who and what's what in town government."
2. Note especially new steps and proposals for improving government.
3. Make this information easily accessible at the library.
4. Arrange to take the library's help to public officials and those studying public questions, if they fail to come to the library. No knowledge becomes universal which is not easy to obtain. That is the motive and the secret

*Outline of address delivered at Atlantic City library meeting, March 9, 1912.

of successful advertising, and that is why cigar stores are located at every turn instead of being placed on fifth floors or back alleys.

5. Separate and advertise information bearing upon current public questions as they rise,

6. Ask officials how the library may help them.

7. Tell officials how the library may help them. As Librarian Bostwick of St. Louis wrote to St. Louis officials regarding their municipal reference library:

"No ordinance need be passed and no department of the city government need try any new scheme, measure or device without first having full knowledge of what other cities or corporations have done along similar lines and what degree of success."

8. Describe briefly in your local paper or in your bulletin, as the New York public library is now doing, the new accessions of documents that relate to local problems, documents that include practical special mention of articles in magazines. Such advertising would undoubtedly lead special students to supplement your current funds for books and documents.

9. Offer to help answer circular or special letters of inquiry which come to city officials and then file the results for later use by other officials or by citizens. The mayor of St. Louis asked the municipal reference library within the first few weeks for special information on 18 different important subjects.

10. Offer to help mayors, councilmen, comptrollers, street-cleaning commissioners, health and school officials, etc., to supplement their information and experience by making extracts of material in the library or by offering to send to other cities for information. In the first six weeks 14 different departments of the St. Louis city government asked help from the municipal reference library on 29 different topics.

11. Encourage the holding of municipal exhibits, school health exhibits, etc., at the public library.

12. Make a miniature budget exhibit at the library before the next annual appropriations are voted for your city and interest officials and the public in your city, as can be done everywhere, in the graphic presentation of municipal needs and city work to the public at budget-making time.

13. Make the library the center for club meetings, conferences, etc., as has been done so successfully in Newark. It is quite as important and far easier to make public libraries the center for discussion and city planning, as it is to make public schools the logical center for sociables, dances, etc.

14. Help clubs plan programs on civics, discovering those who are willing to study and work so as to give them an insight into new material.

15. Send out to officials and students, ministers, debaters, etc., packages of information

on government, like the 180,000 packages of clippings, magazine articles, photographs, etc., sent out to all corners of Wisconsin last year by the University extension division. Officials, technical, professional, business men, etc., would be glad to do for New Jersey libraries what they do for the University extension society, send in magazines, clippings, photographs, etc., to be cut up and filed by subjects for circulation or for study at the library.

16. Keep in touch with agencies and officials so that your offer of facilities and your suggestions will be natural and your request for suggestions accepted. There are many ways in which libraries can tactfully help officials. For example, New York City's superintendent of schools has for two years claimed in his annual report that he originated the studies of over-age problems, or as he says in his last report, just out, *"Since I first called the world's attention to the over-age problem in 1904."* Will not the time come when the library will notice such an important statement and such a legitimate object of local pride and whisper in the ears of the local officials:

"Ssh—For five years before you started this inquiry, the St. Louis superintendent discussed in his report more fully and more definitely than has yet been done elsewhere, the over-age problem, using even the recently much-worked terms 'over-age,' 'acceleration,' 'retardation,' etc., and four years before you claimed to have originated the inquiry, the United States bureau of education distributed broadcast the results of the St. Louis study."

17. Aim especially to co-operate with the health and school departments, which are the best understood by the public, and present most frequently and most accurately the problems of municipal administration.

Please accept these suggestions as another way of raising questions for informal discussion as to just what leadership communities may safely expect from public libraries in solving the problems of municipal government.

A writer in the *New York Times* contributes an article on "Business men and the library." He says, "Every library should have sufficient appropriation to advertise its resources. That is what the business man wants. He is helpless before a large catalogue, before many references. On a card he wishes a list of what he is seeking; and without the trouble of writing titles down, he desires to take the slip away with him. If the library has a printing department, so much the easier should it be made for the business man."

The Municipal Reference Library and Municipal Work*

Leo Tiefenthaler, municipal reference librarian, Milwaukee, Wis.

The large city is a phenomenon of our modern civilization. The city offers relief from the monotony of the country; it offers diversion, the theater, social intercourse, culture, refinement, personal advancement, high salaries, scope for the ambitions, in general those things that make for advancement in present day conditions.

The city is the nucleus of modern institutions. From it the railroad, steamship, telegraph and telephone lines radiate out into all directions. Domestic and foreign products pass through the city to reach the consumer. It is the center of the great manufacturing interests of the country—the foundries, the rolling mills, the flouring mills, the tanneries and machine shops. All these produce goods valued yearly in the millions. These industries employ tens of thousands, and other tens of thousands are employed in clothing, feeding and housing these.

This concentration of the population in small areas presents many problems. In the densely populated tenement lurks tuberculosis and immorality; typhoid is hidden in the water. There are the liquor evil, the saloon dance, the red light, the white slave traffic, occupational diseases, impure air, adulterated food, the numbers of unemployed, poverty, starvation, woman labor, child labor, infant mortality. All these and more are peculiar to city life.

A writer of note states that American governmental institutions will survive or fall with the success or failure of American city government. On the failure of American cities to properly regulate the evils incident to city life I need not dilate. The graft exposé of New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco, the loss of life through tuberculosis, the impotency of the governmental powers of the council itself bear witness thereof.

*Read before the Wisconsin library association, Janesville, Feb. 23.

But at present Americans have every reason to be optimistic. Interest in municipal problems is on the increase. Municipal reform is the burning question of the hour. The best minds of the country are giving it their serious consideration. In proof thereof are the national organizations given up entirely to municipal questions: the National municipal league, the League of American municipalities, the American civic association, the National civic federation, the American society for municipal improvements, City planning conferences, and so on *ad infinitum*. Witness the municipal magazines: the *American City, Municipal Journal and Engineer*, the *National Municipal Review*. Witness some of the books lately published: "Municipal government," Goodnow; "Essays on municipal administration," Fairlie; "Great cities in America," Wilcox; "Government of American cities," Deming; "Government of European cities," Monroe. Witness the various movements toward change in the machinery of city government: the short ballot, the municipal initiative, referendum and recall, commission form of government, home rule charters. Witness the various city clubs, organized to assist by criticisms, suggestions and encouragement, in Chicago, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Boston, St. Louis and Cleveland. Witness the various municipal and private organizations, like the Bureau of municipal research, the Bureau of economy and efficiency, the Bureau of public efficiency, which aim through diligent research in various problems to make for greater economy and efficiency.

Closely allied with the latter are the municipal reference libraries. The municipal reference idea has been adopted from the state legislative reference idea. There are at present five municipal reference libraries in the country: at Baltimore, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Minneapolis and St. Louis. Two of these, namely, those at Baltimore and Kansas City, are independent departments, while those at St. Louis, Minneapolis and Mil-

waukee are branches of the public libraries of those cities.

To call these institutions libraries is really a misnomer, if that term implies an institution at which books are kept and from which they may be drawn for use. The municipal reference library really is a bureau of research and information on all subjects of municipal and civic interest.

Members of common councils, as is well known, are but poorly paid, and the members of the various boards and commissions give up their leisure hours for the service of the city. It is only right and proper that it should be made as easy as possible for these men to procure the information, the data and the assistance that they need in carrying on their work. To be of assistance to these is one of the functions of the municipal reference library. To give this assistance it may be necessary to draw up a schedule, to send out questionnaires, to draw up a report, digest a series of laws, to collect various ordinances of the other cities and report on their failures or success, to examine into proposed institutions that have been tried elsewhere, and the like. It is necessary not only to obtain the material but to present it in such a manner that it may answer the purpose for which it is requested. The idea is not only to work *for* these bodies and boards but to work *with* them. The librarian must be constantly vigilant and alert to all civic questions that the experience of other cities may accrue to the advantage of his city.

The following are a few of the subjects on which information is sought or reports requested: municipal markets, sanitary inspection, tuberculosis, bathing beaches, budget exhibits, smoke nuisance, excess condemnation, garbage disposal, stopping of street cars, harbors, parks, housing, wheel tax and the like.

Drafting ordinances offers another channel for effective work. To draft an ordinance so as to answer exactly the purposes for which it was intended requires considerable effort and skill. It is constructive work. It is necessary to

think out devices and expedients that those whom it most closely concerns may not circumvent the ordinance. In this connection a complete file of the ordinances of other large cities is very helpful. The drafting of ordinances represents the highest form of municipal reference work.

Each day brings to the office of the mayor and the city clerk various inquiries of a general nature in regard to activities of the city. To give these such attention as they merit is the proper work of a reference library.

Much of the literature which is of greatest value in a municipal reference library is what is called "fugitive material." It frequently cannot be duplicated and must be collected as it appears. Books themselves are but a minor source of information. It is the article in the magazine, the report of an investigation printed in pamphlet form, the newspaper clipping, the speech delivered at a meeting, the proceedings of a convention, the clipping from the *Congressional Record*, the report of the head of a municipal department, government publications, the report of the investigating committee of a legislature, the city plan. These offer the best material. By the time municipal experiences and reports are incorporated in books they are frequently too old to be of any advantage. The collection of this material entails endless clipping and correspondence.

To be easily accessible, as it must be in legislative work, this material is very minutely indexed, and necessitates on the part of the cataloger a comprehensive and practical knowledge of economics and politics.

In the business world today one great cry is for scientific methods—the reduction of waste and the increase of efficiency. The municipal reference library is one means of applying scientific methods to city government. The method has been so eminently successful in connection with the state government; it must also be successful in city government. The ideal for a municipal reference library is that of a legislative work-shop.

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Ranck, S. H.
Public library as a part of the municipal government.
Library journal, 32:432-3.

Whitten, R. H.
Proposed library of municipal affairs and city department libraries.
Library journal, 33:224-6.

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Library journal, 33:385-90.

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Milwaukee sentinel, Dec. 14, 1907.

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Importance of municipal reference libraries.
National conference on good city government, 1908, p. 308-16.

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Reference libraries in cities—Baltimore as a type.
Public libraries, 12: 278-9.

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Public library as a part of the municipal government. (Same as in Library journal v. 32, p. 432-3.)
Public libraries, 12:386-7.

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Municipal reference section of a public library.
Public libraries, 13: p. 4-6. Jan., 1908.

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Wisconsin library bulletin, 4:18.

The Library and Local History*

Ida F. Farrar, City library, Springfield, Mass.

Our English cousins laugh when we talk about our history; ours, that we count by decades, where they reckon theirs by hundreds. Yet even the traveller on the swift trolley or swifter motor sees the evidences of that which marks history, in the beautiful spires of old New England churches, the old colonial houses, the arched doorways, the bronze knockers. And when the passing traveller is admitted behind these same knockers he finds a wealth of historical material. Each family is justly proud of its own heirlooms and yet some of them seem more properly the property of the town than of the family. The small town is particularly rich in these treasures and while a collection of objects of art would be out of the question for most of them, a collection of objects representing the life of other days is possible for almost any town. It would be a center of local interest and local pride, a collection to which all might contribute and about which all would be intelligent. Any empty room would serve as a beginning of such a museum, and a donation party serve to fill it. The librarian is the person best adapted to start such an interest and the results already attained in many a little town show what is possible. In a little unused church in one of the bleakest of our New England towns is a fine collection; another, one of the best to be found outside of Boston, is in an old house on the side of a mountain three miles from train or trolley. Another is in a little Vermont town, Pomfret by name. There the collection has been

*Abstract of a talk given before the mid-winter meeting of the Western Massachusetts library club, at Longmeadow, Feb. 8, 1912.

made by the librarian, Mrs. Abba Doten Chamberlin, who writes a breezy account of it in a pamphlet which may be had for the asking. While spinning wheels, trundle beds, warming pans, candle molds and all the rest will form the basis of the collection, there are certain other points not to be neglected. Photographs of men and women who have meant anything to the town should be secured and put into albums. Views, either past or present, should be carefully preserved, and in these days of postcards and amateur photography there will be many. Before the old residents pass on, secure from them reminiscences of early days and stories and rhymes about the town. Be sure that every article in the collection is properly labeled and if it has a history, that may be added. Do not make too hard and fast rules regarding articles in the collection. If a class is studying colonial history or the evolution of occupations, let the teacher take such articles as illustrate the lesson. If there is an old folks' concert or a little play which need the addition of a few old-time relics, let them go. Remember that the collection, like the library, belongs to the town.

This museum is the town's concrete expression of its history, the one in which the people will take most pride. There is another side, however, to the conserving of local history, the one which seems more strictly the librarian's province—the preserving of the *literature* of history. First in the list come the town and county histories and local genealogies. The library needs two copies of each, one to circulate and one to keep for reference. In these we have history already made, but history is continually being made and the printed book, like the printed catalog, is soon out of date. The librarian, then, must concern herself with the events of today which so soon become the history of yesterday, and here is where her greatest field lies. A complete file of the town reports is of prime importance, because in these reports are crystalized the important statistics and events of the year. If the town prints a

directory, a file of that is necessary to show names of residents, past and present. Do any of the local churches print year books or calendars? Get one of the regular attendants to save you a copy of every issue, for some day there will be an anniversary celebration and the facts recorded on these calendars will be wanted.

Of course there is a grange in your town. Probably they publish outlines of their year's work, programs of their entertainments, etc., which some time they will wish to consult. Enlist one of the members to preserve them for you.

There are other interests in the town—a woman's club, a Y. M. C. A., various societies and lodges—all of which publish at intervals material which should be preserved. If someone in each organization is made responsible for looking out for this, just as many more people are made to take an interest in the library's collection.

Special occasions like Fourth of July, Old-home week and anniversary celebrations call forth publications which the next generation will find intensely interesting.

"But," I hear the weary librarian say, "what a mass of pamphlets; what shall I ever do with them!" Classify them—as simply as possible—but classify them. Inexpensive pamphlet cases, open on one side, will serve to hold each class. Use the Dewey numbers in their simplest form for each class, something after this fashion:

- 280 Churches.
(Author no. for name of church.)
- 350 Town government reports, etc.
- 360 Clubs, societies, etc.
(Take author no. from name of organization.)
- 370 Schools.
(Author no. from name of school.)
- 600 Business.
(Author no. from name of firm.)
- 800 Literature.
(Include here books or pamphlets preserved because written by a resident.)
- 900 History.
- 910 Description.
- 920 Biography.
(Use B for individual biography.)

Still another method of preserving local history remains—the making of a scrap book. This, too, the librarian may delegate to some interested native. Somebody born in the town, grown famous in a distant city, meets with sudden death and a column appears in the local paper. Twenty years hence he will be inquired for and this will be the only printed record. An old house which has been a landmark for a hundred years is burned, the next issue of the paper has its picture and history; it is the librarian's chance to make it immortal. The first church in the township celebrates its one hundredth anniversary and the paper gives its history, a list of prominent members and all the events of the day's celebration; this will be wanted when the church celebrates its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary; who but the librarian will have saved the account of it? In early spring a sudden freshet destroys the toll bridge, which the oldest inhabitant remembers when he was a child; the account which will appear in the paper must be preserved that the next generation may know of it. Every librarian can multiply instances like these—where the newspaper makes invaluable contributions to the town's history and will realize that it is her privilege to make its record permanent. Care must be taken to sift what is lasting from that which is transitory. And especially is it desirable that all these items of interest be indexed, by cards if possible, in a very simple way, e. g.:

Smith, John.

(Scrap book vol. 1, p. 25.)

Toll bridge.

(Scrap book vol. 2, p. 30.)

There seems to be no end to the fields opening with opportunity for the librarian of today; but this one of conserving local history is peculiarly hers and the opportunity is constantly passing if it is not improved. While she takes the initiative, by getting townspeople to help her, she brings about a spirit of co-operation and increases the knowledge of the library's resources. She makes a collection which not only serves her own day and generation, but all those to come.

The Library and the Foreign Citizen*

Flora B. Roberts, librarian, Public library, Superior, Wis.

"The Campbells are coming, ha, ha! ha, ha."

Not only are the Campbells coming but the clans from all Europe; from all Europe and from Asia and Africa and from the Islands of the Sea. They are coming to us on the average of a little more than a million a year; enough to build three cities the size of Milwaukee.

Formerly our immigration was derived almost entirely from the Teutonic and Celtic stocks; now these countries send us only about 30 per cent. of the foreigners seeking homes in America, while over 60 per cent. come from the Slavic and Iberic races. Combined with this statement we learn that in 1899 the per cent. of illiteracy among our immigrants was 19.7, while in 1909 it was 29.2. The significance of these figures? They show us that the increase of illiteracy is coming with the increase of those people who are most unlike us in traditions, language, and ways of life and thought. How shall these widely different elements be fused into Americans?

From the foundations of our government we have looked to public education as the safeguard of republican institutions. Consequently, the obvious thing to do is to educate the foreigner. This is a comparatively simple matter when the foreigner is under 14 years of age, though many of our public school teachers would lift questioning brows at the word "simple." But what of these adult immigrants, this nearly 30 per cent. who can neither read nor write in their own tongue? And there is the unknown number who, while educated in the native language, have no knowledge of English. How are they to learn that they must have a license to run a peddler's wagon, that their children must go to school, that they must stay at home when they have the mumps, that they must not carry concealed daggers, and the hundred and one other simple city ordinances and

*Paper read at the Wisconsin state library association meeting at Janesville, February 21, 1912.

public regulations. It is estimated that 50 per cent. of all the young foreigners who go to Pittsburgh, contract typhoid fever within two years because they cannot be made to understand the danger from the water. An Italian woman in Passaic sent her little girl to spend the day in the library because she could not go to school—she had the measles. But where and how are they to learn how to be citizens of our country?

Many different agencies are now grappling with this problem, and results are coming slowly. Miss J. Maud Campbell of the public library of Passaic (N. J.) was one of the first to see the opportunity of the libraries in this direction. Up to 1903 library literature contains but very few references which show efforts to reach the adult foreigner. Now no library of any city of the land which has a noticeable proportion of foreign born residents—and what city is without this proportion?—but has at least a few volumes and a newspaper or two in the native tongue of these patrons.

In the beginning some doubted the wisdom of supplying books in the foreign languages, fearing it would take away the incentive to learn English, and so delay assimilation. But experience has shown that, while in some cases it may have retarded the acquisition of our language, it has hastened assimilation. The heart of the foreigner is hungry and homesick as he struggles to make his home in the midst of all that is strange; discontent and distrust are apt to grow. But when he discovers in the library books in his own tongue, he is quick to feel the courteous recognition of his language and literature, and of his personal needs; then a patriotic content and pride in his adopted country succeeds the feelings of discontent and distrust. Miss Campbell tells of a homesick looking foreigner who said to her, "I always thought until I came to your book house an American was too much hurry up to make money to take trouble for a nobody like me."

"Under the powerful assimilating influences of American life to-day, the

danger is not that the foreign languages will be retained too long—the danger is that in a generation or two they will be lost as an element of power and culture, and that the rich inheritance of racial traditions and characteristics which give America a peculiar interest and distinction, will disappear." (Editorial, *N. Y. Libraries.*)

To reach this class the librarian has to depend much on the friendship of those who have already found a welcome at the library; these will tell others, and thus the news spreads. The ministers, priests, doctors, and other educated members of a race are always glad to help. Often the people can be reached through the churches, lodges, and other organizations. The newspapers in foreign tongues are glad to print notices of the location of the library, the hours of opening, and lists of books received.

The librarian at Calumet (Mich.), who had varied experiences with some 24 different nationalities, places much emphasis on the value of an attractive building. She says remove the signs requiring no conversation, put in place some ferns, growing bulbs, blossoms, a few good pictures, and a plaster cast or two. Surely the Neapolitan boot black who used Vasari's Lives of the painters for a text book as an aid in the study of English would be more quickly attracted to such a library.

The children prove the strongest link between the library and the adult foreigner. One of the first American laws which an immigrant learns is that his children must attend school; and it is not unusual to discover a child who also thinks the law compels him to "take himself in the library." Many parents never go to the library, but depend on the children to bring them books. "My mother she wants a book," says a small urchin. "What kind of a book?" asks the librarian. "One about princes and princesses, and with weepings in it." So the librarian sends a book according to specifications, and the weary narrowness of some woman's life is relieved.

Miss Campbell suggests one good way to reach the foreigner is to send an invitation by the children. If the child replies the parents do not read English, tell him of the foreign books and papers in your library. She says, "The quickest way to reach the heart of a foreigner is to ask what was his native town, and then show him the place on the map and follow the course of his trip over here. He will show you the spot with as much pride as if it were a ducal palace, and come again and again, bringing friends with him to get you to point out the dot on the map that means so much to him."

All modern libraries have rooms which may be used for meeting places for clubs and classes. Many report night classes for foreigners in these rooms. Here the prospective citizen is taught the language of his new country, and its laws, customs, and ideals. Surely this is a paying investment in good citizenship. From Homestead (Pa.), we learn of a student of 40 years who began with his alphabet; in three months he could read as well as a second grade pupil.

Many libraries have also successfully tried the plan of lectures and evening entertainments for foreigners. Lectures are given in the foreign languages on America, its resources, laws and customs. Literary clubs of the different nationalities are encouraged to hold their meetings and programs at the library. Perhaps a Bohemian program will be arranged, consisting of folk-songs, myths, and stories of that nation; the library may supplement this by a display of some work by Bohemian artists and a tempting array of books in the Bohemian language. Such an evening is sure to make friends for the library, and so for America.

Social workers who are familiar with the lives of the immigrants in this country consider one of the greatest weaknesses in their social life to be the breaking or twisting of the family ties; the results of this weakness spread far into the social fabric, and anything which

prevents it must be of great value to the community. An Italian family settles in some American city; the father joins a gang of Italians who work together under the direction of a boss; the mother remains at home and cares for the family; the children are compelled by law to go to school; so it is the children who first learn the language and ways of America. Thus the parents come to depend on the children in those things which bring the family into contact with life outside their little circle. Finally the parents are displaced because of this dependence on the children; parental authority is ignored and pushed aside. "They are forced into a false position in relation to each other and the outside world." This makes possible the remark of one child to his mother, "Shut up talking about Bohemia; we are living in America now." If the child discovers that the library in his new America makes much of the old country of his parents, if it shows him the beauties in their history and tradition, teaches him to feel a sympathy for the folk life of the country, it has contributed a share toward the restoration of the normal relations of the parents and children.

The most common request of the adult foreigner at the library desk is for "something about America in my own language," and this is one of the hardest demands to meet. There are the leaflets printed by the Bureau of immigration and naturalization, and those by the North American civic league for immigrants. Beyond these there is little. The titles of books for the foreigner who wishes to learn English are multiplying of late, and no library with foreign patrons can afford to be without them. The March, 1911, number of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* contains a very good list of this material from the Buffalo library. This suggests itself as a most excellent subject for cooperation among library folk.

Buying lists of books in the various languages present another opportunity for co-operation. To the unfortunate li-

brarian who is not a linguist, the selection of these books becomes a nightmare. The A. L. A. publishing board have tried to meet this need, but the lists so soon grow out of date. Is this an opening for more night oil burning by the Booklist people? or is it a task for the Commissions? Of a certainty, there are hearts at the Head of the Lakes which would rejoice at a good dependable list of Norwegian and Swedish books once in six months, or even once a year.

One of the most important needs of the work is the right person. One who can meet the foreigner at the library desk, greet him in his own tongue, and give him that sympathetic understanding which must be based on a familiarity with his history, traditions, and attitude toward life. Miss Poray of the Detroit public library, a Pole by birth, and of extended and successful experience in library work, insists that there is a psychological reason for the inability of the Teuton to meet the Slav. So we must make librarians from among the foreigners themselves, and therein is another of our opportunities.

It is the problem of America to bring all these peoples into one common brotherhood, patriotic and charitable. It is the privilege of the libraries to furnish some of the fuel for the fires beneath the great melting pot.

Canons of Ethics

Charles K. Bolton, librarian of the Boston Athenaeum is preparing a reprint of his, "Canons of ethics" which appeared in PUBLIC LIBRARIES (14:203) and which was afterwards reprinted for distribution at the A. L. A. meeting at Bretton Woods.

The pamphlet will be sold for 10 cents each or \$3 a hundred.

The New York state library association has secured Dr Philander Priestly Claxton, U. S. commissioner of education, to give an address at the meeting next fall.

Application Forms.

To the Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I would like to make a suggestion through your columns, to the many library schools soon to turn out classes of trained students, that there be some instruction as to the proper writing of an application for a position as assistant or librarian.

During my five years librarianship, I have received from 20 to 30 such applications, not more than five of which were fit to present to a Board of Directors.

The ignorance of the proper wording of an application is appalling. The paper used is often ruled sheets from a writing pad, and a careless disregard of neatness and order is very noticeable.

I have kept on file a few of the most hopeless ones. Most of them write long chatty letters, telling all about themselves from their childhood days. One young woman assured me that she was sure I would be glad to have her in my library, she had such a pleasing personality.

Another sent ten typewritten sheets giving testimonials from various persons, as to her character and education. Not a word as to her usefulness in a library.

Still another refers me to the National Bank of her small home town as to her amiable qualities and personality.

It all seems so utterly stupid when you consider what they are asking for.

Just recently an application has come to me that is so business-like and correct it is refreshing to read. There are only a few lines asking to be considered as a candidate for the position, and a list following giving the names and addresses of those to whom she wished us to refer.

If a girl has never been taught in her home how to write a good business letter, it seems to me that a few suggestions in the library course would be invaluable to her. I am certain many candidates are not considered because of the tone and style of their applications. As I expect to leave the library world soon, I could not resist saying a last word as to this most important matter.

LIBRARIAN.

Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$2 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$8 a year
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Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1897.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an Exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

Join the party—The prospect of a special train from Chicago to Ottawa to the A. L. A. meeting is a most welcome one. A meeting in a city means separation and the entrance of many things that consume so much time that there is little opportunity for visiting and discussion after reaching the meeting place of the conference. But with a special train, where everybody ought to know everybody else and where there is ample opportunity for meeting those with similar problems and interests, the idea of a railroad journey instead of being a trial revolves itself into the promise of the pleasantest of journeys.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES would strongly urge everyone that can possibly do so, even at some little extra effort, to join the party for the special train leaving Chicago for Ottawa, June 24.

An interesting prospect—The change made in the time of leaving Chicago by the A. L. A. party in order that there

may be a chance to spend the day in Toronto is in our judgment a very wise move.

Toronto presents one of the most interesting library problems on the continent. An active, live, modernized city, one feels the spirit of growth in the very atmosphere, one may see it materially on every side. The civic spirit with its many demands for opportunity to make the city a better dwelling place for the children of men, is equaled by few other cities.

The library affairs of Toronto have shared in the benefits of these conditions. The beautiful reference library has been described too often to need comment at this time further than to say that to be really appreciated it must be seen. The lending library is doing a good work for the reading public, while the branch libraries of Toronto are object lessons of efficiency that are well worth a trip to study. The University of Toronto library also offers interesting conditions for the college librarians.

In addition to all these professional advantages offered by Toronto, the well-known hospitality of the city, the rank and reputation of the Toronto university, the courtesy and cordiality of the trustees of the Toronto public library, enjoyed by those who had the pleasure of meeting Mr Kelly and Mr Gash at former A. L. A. meetings, and the genial and keen-witted librarian, Mr Locke, who has brought years of efficiency and scholarship into his new work, make the prospect of a day in Toronto most attractive. Again we say, the addition of a day in Toronto to the journey to Ottawa, deserves cordial thanks, and will surely bring hearty appreciation to all those who are able to take advantage of it.

Appreciation—A successful campaign was carried on in St. Paul (Minn.) in March, by which the sum of \$131,226 was subscribed by the citizens for the

purpose of building a new public library for the city. James J. Hill, of St. Paul, has announced the intention to provide \$750,000 for a building to contain a high-grade reference library, for which he will provide a maintenance fund in addition. This gives the library situation of St. Paul rather a brilliant outlook as to equipment.

When a man with the business record of Mr. Hill calls it good business to make such a provision, and when the members of the Association of Commerce, such as were behind the general movement in St. Paul for a public library, give material expression to their confidence in the public library as an asset for the town, in such an effort as was put forth in March, it is a pleasing sign that the library is coming into its own as an important factor in the community. The following from a prominent newspaper is evidence of the fact just stated:

Americans hardly realize how the library is finding its way into the normal functioning of communities, or what a constant broadening educational influence it is, an ally of state, church, school, factory and farm. The number of such social centers in New York state has doubled since 1893, the number of books has increased three-fold and circulation seven-fold. Each person in the Empire state now reads at least 2.2 books per year, and each family averages ten books; and this apart from private expenditure for literature. A state that has such a record of gain, especially in provision for the rural districts, is bound to note the social and economic benefits before long. Worked out, by aid from well-to-do donors as well as by local taxation and state aid, the commonwealth will come to realize, as Massachusetts long since did, that few forms of democratized knowledge and culture are as penetrating in their renewing and uplifting influence as a well-chosen collection of books, distributed to the public by intelligent custodians and trained users of printed matter. Where libraries cater to the newly-arrived foreigner as well as to the acclimated native, and where they include literatures other than English, these libraries also are prime factors in the great assimilative process of making Americans out of Teutons, Celts, Latins and Slavs.—*Christian Science Monitor*.

A weak place—The annual meeting of the Wisconsin library association held at Janesville in February was devoted to

the discussion of the library as an educational and civic force. The occasion of presenting the library as an educational force was not unlike the majority of such presentations in that there was a full and effective exposition of the opportunities for co-operative helpfulness common to both, on the part of the librarians who were present, while the teaching force, although they are in the majority in numbers by a large proportion, were in the minority in numbers and participation on the occasion.

To one who has watched the whole question for a number of years there is room for encouragement in the progress that has been made, and yet constantly individual instances arise, which in the lack of appreciation and breadth of view on the part of the teachers as to the value of the library in their work is almost disheartening. Nowhere is the optimistic spirit of the librarian better shown than in the constant refusal to be discouraged in the uphill work of interesting the teaching profession to the extent that they will appreciate and take advantage of the opportunity offered them by the libraries of the country.

"The library as a paying-investment" was ably presented by Mr. Roden of the Public library of Chicago, with such an optimistic appeal as makes it seem impossible for a well-balanced educator or an interested citizen of the community to view the library with anything savoring of indifference. What is termed the "civic force" of the library was presented by a number of persons engaged in practical demonstration of the idea. There was little if any striving for effect in what was said and while, as was natural, the hopes and purposes of the workers contributed a large share to the discussion, there was sufficient demonstration of the theories advanced to make it an occasion worthy of notice and full of value. Little by little the horizon is widening for the opportunity of the library, but it still remains something of a disappointment that the results are in such small proportion to the amount of effort expended.

Display Material Wanted

The annual meeting of the Associated advertising clubs of America will be held in Dallas, Texas, May 19-23, 1912.

The display of the association will be in Carnegie hall of the Dallas public library, and will be a comprehensive and exhaustive exhibit of advertising methods and materials.

It is suggested that libraries send to the Dallas public library samples of advertising matter used, such as printed lists of books, suggestions regarding the use of the library, etc., to be used as a part of the display. The space reserved for this display is too limited to permit posters and mounted bulletins to be shown.

The exhibit being held in a library gives libraries an unusual opportunity to get in touch with mercantile advertisers.

The association is national in scope, and it is hoped that libraries in all parts of the country will respond by sending such samples of advertising matter as they consider suitable for this display.

Materials should be at the Dallas public library not later than May 13, 1912.

Qualifications of Librarians

This report was made for the benefit of librarians and library boards in the state of Indiana. There is need for something definite and authoritative, something more than the advice of one person, when the matter of employment of a librarian is up for consideration. Many library boards have no precedents, and are changing or organizing anew. They want to know what is considered good practice, what is the standard generally recognized, so that they can obtain as nearly as possible a proper basis for efficient management. The problem of this committee was to obtain a general consensus of opinion, based on experience, that should thus serve as a somewhat authoritative formulation of qualifications.

The experience qualifications with reference to salary are based upon a questionnaire, answered by 120 librarians, showing experience and salary conditions.

The recommendations show an increase of 20 per cent. above the actual conditions as regards remuneration. It would be valuable, as well as interesting, to know how conditions in other states compare with this showing. In how many states would the salaries noted be considered a fair and practical return for the preparation implied? Is the library expecting too much, or the librarian giving too much? How does this compare with the preparation demanded and the return granted in other professions? Is the adoption of similar recommendations feasible or desirable on a national scale? Is there any way in which the aid of legislation can be invoked to establish minimum requirements in the state?

Experience qualifications are arranged by the committee as follows:

For libraries paying up to \$35 monthly:

Librarian should have a full high school education or its equivalent. Librarian should be sent to a nearby library for a few weeks to secure a knowledge of work, and should secure the assistance of the Public library commission whenever necessary. As soon as possible the librarian should attend a summer library school.

For libraries paying \$35 to \$50 monthly (this salary based upon an income up to \$1,500 a year):

Librarian should be a college graduate without special training, or have an equal educational training; or, a high school graduate with special library training in a summer library school of recognized excellence; or, a person with one year's experience in an established and well organized library. Training and experience should generally take precedence.

For libraries paying \$60 to \$75 a month:

Librarian should be a college graduate who has had a one year course of library training. For the larger salary may sometimes be found librarians who have completed a full two year course in a library school. It is understood in all cases that sufficient successful experience in reputable libraries will equal special training.

For libraries paying above \$75 a month:

The conditions become special and it would probably not be possible for this committee to attempt to specify in detail what should be sought or expected; but for work in the ordinary library, the board ought to insist on a college education, training in a first class library school, and experience in the special work to be done.

The subject that aroused most discussion was that of age limit, the section having been stated as follows:

"A person over thirty-five years of age should not undertake library work. Such a one has habits already formed—habits of mind, standards of conduct, preconceived opinions, and personal customs—that are hard, often impossible, to overcome when called upon to deal directly with the public in a professional manner."

It is readily recognized that there must be exceptions. That granted, is it possible to state a maximum limit? Should there not also be a minimum limit? What should each be? These are some of the questions that were aroused in the committee. Have any other states considered the problem in a similar way? Would not a similar formulation of principles be of value in any state? A discussion of how far they would differ from the Indiana report would be welcome and valuable.

LOUIS J. BAILEY, Chairman.

A library must view books mainly as tools of scholarship and as sources of useful knowledge. It cannot consider or regard as indispensable in a book such features as: 'vellum copy,' inclusion of blank leaves, 'advertisements at end,' 'in original blue-paper covers,' 'has leaf of Errata often missing,' distinguished previous ownership or association, etc., etc. When any of these features, or others like them, adds inordinately to the price of the book, that book or copy must be regarded as outside the range of normal or routine acquisition.—W. N. C. Carlton.

The Library as a Place of Business*

One of the most famous of our American surgeons, who lives in a small and rather inaccessible town, has, hanging on his office wall, this motto: "Have something which the world wants, and, though you dwell in a forest, it shall make a pathway to your door."

It is the ideal of every librarian "to have something the world wants" and to see the world making a pathway to the library door. But at the present stage of library development, its location, like that of the grocery or drug store, is a great factor in determining the character and amount of business done.

I know a library whose location is almost ideal. Situated on one corner of the divergence of five busy streets, a hotel on either side, and banks and drug stores as near neighbors. Directly opposite is a large department store, where the greater part of the mercantile business of the city is done.

Such a library occupies a strategic point. It is *among* the business institutions, and should be *of* them. The librarian has an excellent opportunity for observing the business methods of the stores, banks, etc., near her, and she can apply these methods to the conducting of the library.

Then, there should be an interdependence between the library and its neighbors. The pathway from library to hotel, store or bank, should be at least well defined, with the hope of its becoming well trodden. No service, however small, should be scorned. If the chef from the hotel comes for a new dessert, and finds it, there is a chance that he may form the habit of coming to the library for the books and magazines on cookery. The advertising manager of a big store may speak enthusiastically of the benefit he derived from a book on advertising, which he obtained at the library. This is gratifying, but it is more gratifying to know that this store is receiving some returns for its investment

*From address before Wisconsin library association, February 23, 1912.

in the library. If the manager of the knitting works asks for a book on testing yarns, send for it if you haven't it on your shelves, and when it comes, notify him. A courteous letter and a used book may be the result, but best of all is the increased respect this man has for the library as a place of real usefulness. When you learn that a real estate dealer is testing soils from tests mentioned in a library book, it means that the library is extending its usefulness in a new direction. When the manager of the Bijou wants new designs for borders for his slides, search through your books on design and clip your magazine ads, but convince him that the library can supply his wants. If one of the "vaudeville artists" from this same Bijou asks for a description of the battle of Waterloo, in "Lees Miserables" hand him Les Miserables, and be glad. If the local paper speaks of the after-dinner speech of a certain brilliant lawyer as "scintillating with gems of wit," be happy that the library furnished the gems.

The point in these seemingly trivial illustrations is, that it is a psychological fact that a connection, however slight, established between library and patron is a bond between the two, and the alert librarian is as eager to strengthen this bond, as is the merchant to make the customer dependent upon his store.

Besides, there is the fact often overlooked that the library must give value received to the whole community, to which it owes its existence. The "square deal" is as necessary in library success as in mercantile. The department store has all kinds of goods for all kinds of people. The public library must have all kinds of goods for all kinds of people. Just as the store advertises its goods, so must the library advertise its stock, and see that this stock is fresh and up to date as well as standard.

In a training class for clerks in a large department store, the clerks were impressed with two facts. First, that they were there to "sell goods" and second, that the public is "boss." These principles hold good in the library. As the

most valuable clerk in the store is the one who can sell the undesirable goods, so the most valuable desk assistant is the one who can get the most non-fiction read. It is no trouble to get people to take "The harvester," but it is quite another thing to persuade the average patron to take books of travel, ethics, or history.

The librarian who has a down town library has a distinct advantage and a rare opportunity to extend the services of the library to the business houses among which it stands, thus winning their respect and confidence. Yet the day is surely coming when the world will realize that a public library "has something which the world wants," and it will make a pathway to the library door.

ADA J. McCARTHY.
Marinette, Wis.

Some Signs of Progress

The American library association headquarters in the March *Bulletin* gives a detailed list of the important gifts and bequests to American libraries during 1911. The total cash donations amount to \$3,364,822, which is nearly a million and a half dollars more than was given in 1910. Of this amount Andrew Carnegie gave \$2,326,370, which is more than double the amount donated by the iron-master to libraries in the previous year. There are 126 towns and cities in the United States and 28 in Canada recipients of his generosity. The majority of these towns are in the middle west and the south and in the province of Ontario, although nearly every state in the union is represented in the list.

Other gifts than money include 65,575 volumes, six sites for library buildings and seven buildings presented for library purposes. One of the notable gifts of the year was a very remarkable collection of books, manuscripts, photographs, and other matter amounting to 33,407 items, relating to the native races of North America, Hawaii and the Philippines, which was donated to the Newberry library, of Chicago, by Edward E. Ayer of that city.

Echoes from Atlantic City Meeting

The March meeting of the New Jersey library association and the Pennsylvania library club was one of the best ever held.

The attendance was large and the program above the average. Where all was so good it is difficult to particularize, but one or two features stand out prominently.

Those of us who have attended several meetings noted the absence of "The Perpetual Mayor," Hon. F. P. Stoy, who for 14 years had welcomed the joint associations to Atlantic City.

Mayor Stoy died suddenly in the fall of 1911. Ever genial, hospitable and courteous, he was particularly interested in the public library. It was through his efforts that a library was started in Atlantic City, due we may modestly and correctly assume to the annual visits of the librarians to that beautiful resort.

Dr William H. Allen, always an interesting talker, was at his best at the Saturday morning session when he took up the subject of the library's opportunity to further efficient government. As a reformer and investigator of municipal affairs, Dr Allen has made his mark, so we were prepared to be told of our "sins of omission and commission." His criticism of the New Jersey law and its effects was rejected by the librarians of that state, and was satisfactorily answered by several members.

His chief objection was against the mandatory feature of the bill. He ventured the opinion that city governments would give larger appropriations for library purposes if the law were permissive rather than compulsory. It was shown that municipalities are always in the habit of cutting appropriations wherever possible and that the library was usually the first and largest sufferer. It was further shown that without this particular law (one of the first, fairest and best of any state) New Jersey would not today be on such a high plane of library development.

Dr Allen pointed out the desirability

of closer connection with the various city departments and indicated several ways in which this could be brought about.

He spoke, too, of the Municipal reference library and indicated many avenues of usefulness and gave us many things to think about which will be of great help in bringing about a closer co-operation between the library and the city government.

But the particular attraction of the meeting was the appearance of Dr Melvil Dewey, the founder of the American library association, the father of the Decimal classification and the man who has done more to advance library interests than any 10 librarians in the country. His reception was most cordial, the applause as he was presented being more pronounced than for any man who ever appeared before an audience of librarians.

To many of the younger librarians his was only a name, as it is nearly six years since Dr Dewey gave up his direct connection with a library. They had heard of him and showed that they were glad to have the opportunity of hearing him and meeting him face to face. Their interest was shown by the intentness with which they listened to his address. Dr Dewey spoke for about a half hour upon the achievements of the American library association, its present status and its future opportunity and duty, laying great stress upon the latter.

It was good to hear his voice again at a library meeting, and to know that he still had the magnetism of earlier days.

VISITOR.

German Visitors

It is reported that 10 commissioners of high rank from Bavaria, have come to America to study the construction and administration of library and museum plants in the leading American cities. The Museum of natural science and technology in Munich is to build a new library. To find the most approved ideas in the American institutions of this kind, brings the commission to this country.

Edward Williams Byron Nicholson

The death of E. W. B. Nicholson, librarian of Bodley library, Oxford, England, on Sunday, March 17, removed another illustrious member of the library world. Mr Nicholson had just completed thirty years' service at Bodley and at the age of 63 laid down a career of achievement and honor. His school life was distinguished for scholarship. His interest in library work began before he received his degrees. He was successively librarian of the Union society at Oxford, the London Institution and the Bodley library. It was through his zeal and interest, largely, that the International conference of librarians was held in 1897, at which time the Library association of the United Kingdom was formed.

Mr Nicholson became librarian at Oxford at a time when idealism was criterion and his ambition to organize and extend the usefulness of the priceless collection met with strong opposition. But he was not a man to be turned aside easily from a purpose in which he believed and before the end of his life he had the satisfaction of seeing most of his plans either accomplished or else inaugurated.

He found time to do much literary work in his busy life and left considerable writing marked with careful attention and often brilliancy. A notable work is his "Keltic researches" (1904). He was interested and active in many public questions and as he allowed himself scarcely a holiday, year after year, he undoubtedly hastened his death. He had been in poor health since the summer of 1910 but had only recently been granted a year's leave of absence.

Those members of the A. L. A. who were present at the reception given by Mr Nicholson and his charming wife at Oxford, at the time of the International conference of 1897, will recall with keen pleasure, and regret at its passing, the cordial hospitality offered by the host of the occasion in contrast with the atmosphere created by the other Oxford guests.

Mrs M. A. Saunders

Mrs Minerva A. Saunders, librarian emeritus of the Public library of Pawtucket, R. I., died March 20, 1912.

Mrs Saunders was in charge of the first free library of Pawtucket following it through all of its changes and developments, from 1876 to 1910, when she was made librarian emeritus.

In many respects Mrs. Saunders was a remarkable woman. She was interested in everything that made for the bettering of the community. The city and state had intrusted her with many positions of responsibility and had shown her much respect. For many years she was appointed by the Rhode Island legislature as a member of the Board of visitors to state institutions.

To the older members of the A. L. A., of which she was long a member, her name evokes recollections of her genial personality and earnest interest in every phase of library advance.

She was the first to publicly advocate the system of open shelves and at the A. L. A. meeting in St. Louis, 1889, was the only one to rise to be counted in favor of it.

Proposed New Department in Library of Congress

A bill has been introduced into Congress by John M. Nelson to establish as a department of the Congressional library, a national bureau for research in the science of government. The bill carries an appropriation of \$150,000 per annum, not a relatively large sum when one considers the magnitude of the saving which will be effected. It is planned that this bureau shall be a center for the collection and indexing of all past and pending legislation here and abroad. It is furthermore proposed that under the direction of its chief, the staff of the bureau shall be given the work of drafting all public bills so that some sort of responsibility for the phraseology of these measures may be established.

The Cameragraph in the Library

The John Crerar library has put photography to a practical use in supplying the users of the library with copies which they may desire from rare books in its possession. The instrument used is called the cameragraph and occupies a space about six feet square. The finished photograph is 13 inches long and 12 inches wide. The pages of the book to be photographed are exposed, the copy is made, and then by means of a revolving crank the imprint is moved on rolls through the various chemicals necessary for the development of the photograph, until it is sent out complete for use. The machine may be kept in continuous operation, is of the simplest mechanism and may be worked by any member of the staff. Within 20 minutes after the request is made the borrower may obtain a set of photographs of legible reproductions of any pages of books in the library which he may want.

The charge made for photographs is five cents a page. It is probable that the cost may be reduced later.

In furnishing information or exact copy for those distant from the library, the cameragraph will render a very distinct and valuable service.

A Normal Course in Library Training

The Pratt Institute library school announces a course in normal training for library work to be offered this fall, to fit students for teaching in library schools, for teaching apprentice classes in libraries, or for the librarianship of normal school or other educational institutions where courses in library work are given. To this course a limited number of graduates of other library schools will be admitted, preference being given those who have had library experience as well.

The plan includes instruction at Pratt institute in educational psychology, the history of education, with special reference to public education in America, sociology, and normal methods, also the opportunity of practice teaching under the direction of a competent instructor.

This opportunity of practice teaching is made possible by a plan of co-operation with the Brooklyn public library, by which the normal students are to prepare and conduct the courses in library economy given the apprentice class of that library. There will be two apprentice classes a year, each of which will receive about 150 hours of class-room instruction from the normal students. Among the subjects taught will be cataloging, subject headings, classification, reference work, branch work, children's work, a study of standard authors and current events.

The scheme is not yet worked out in detail and negotiations are still pending on some minor points, but enough has been settled to announce the main features of the plan.

Those who may wish to consider taking the course are requested to communicate with Josephine Adams Rathbone, vice-director of the school.

A Helpful Tool

Cataloging and order departments, whether of institutional libraries, book collectors, or book dealers, will find an indispensable aid in Mr Frank Keller Walter's book, "Abbreviations and technical terms used in book catalogs and bibliographies," published by the Boston Book Co. Mr Walter is vice-director of the New York state library school and has had unusual opportunities to perfect a useful bibliographic tool. Acknowledgment is made by the compiler to a brief list, of which this was begun as an expansion, by Miss Mary Medlicott (1906) and of another compiled in the same year under the supervision of Mr E. C. Williams, by Miss Eliza Townsend. Although longer than either of these lists, he modestly disclaims either originality or more than approximate completeness, the chief point of difference from other lists being the greater attention to terms and abbreviations in current catalogs of second hand booksellers, which are seldom found in more formal bibliographies. "This," says Mr Walter, "is a list of

terms in actual use, good, bad and indifferent and not a code of forms recommended for use in catalogs and bibliographies."

A list of honorary titles likely to be met in author entries is appended, also a list of abbreviations of important places of publication under their various linguistic guises: for example, the four abbreviations of "Frankfurt an (der) Oder., F. a. d. O.; F. a. O.; Ff. a. O.; Frf. O.;" and of "Vienna, W., Vin., Vind." A partial list of authorities consulted will be of value to the user. The list of abbreviations comprise English, French, German, Dano-Norwegian, Dutch, Italian, Latin, Spanish, Swedish and Danish terms.

The U. S. Report on Efficiency

An important publication in the interest of business organization is issued as circular 21 by the President's Commission on economy and efficiency. It is entitled, "Memorandum of conclusions reached by the commission concerning principles that should govern in the matter of handling and filing correspondence and preparing and mailing communications in connection with the work of the several departments of the government together with suggestions for the use of labor-saving devices in preparing and mailing letters, etc." The recommendations are based upon an inquiry including every office of the nine executive departments in the District of Columbia and a number of services outside the departments. This inquiry also covers the practice of certain private corporations, some of which handle as many as 15,000 pieces of correspondence a day. The conclusions thus arrived at are by experts and are representative of the best business practice of the country. The President recommends, "that so far as may be practicable the methods of handling correspondence in the government service be made to conform to these principles."

The Dewey Decimal system of classification is recommended for filing and subjective classification of correspond-

ence. Upon this point the following quotation from this report as to monetary saving is pertinent: "While it is difficult to estimate the monetary saving which would be effected if the files in the offices of the executive departments were placed upon a subjective basis and followed the principles of classification above set forth, it is believed that the direct saving on this score would amount to not less than \$200,000 a year, while the indirect saving from the standpoint of better organization of working materials would undoubtedly tend to increase that sum." * * * Subjective classification would in many instances, if the experience of railroad and commercial concerns is any guide, be followed by a discontinuance of a very large part of the recording and indexing of incoming and outgoing correspondence. The cost in the executive departments of this operation is \$536,654 in salaries alone, and 8,000,000 cards and 800,000 pages of book records are filled annually."

Other subjects dealt with in the report are, "Registers of correspondence," "Press copy vs. carbon copy," "The dictation machine," "Mailing machinery," and "Elimination of salutation and complimentary close."

The results so far attained, either in consequence of the inquiry or through co-operation with the efforts of the commission have thus far shown a saving of \$50,000 to \$75,000 per annum in the conduct of business of various offices of the government.

Book Lists and Recent Library Bulletins

Fitchburg (Mass.) public library publishes a special list on Argumentation and debating.

Salem (Mass.) library bulletin offers a special classified reading list on Education (8p.); also in the March number, one on "Poultry."

Osterhout free library, Wilkes-Barre (Pa.), publishes a special list on "Manual training and carpentry." The edition is limited to 600 copies.

The Rosenberg library, Galveston (Tex.) devotes special attention to a very comprehensive list on music including scores, vocal and instrumental. In the introductory notes, the library calls special attention to the collection of charming songs for little children, the kindergarten, and the school.

The Wilmington (Del.) institute library list of "Books for women," comprises a wide range of subjects: children; cookery, decoration; diet; entertaining; fireless cooking; gardens; housefurnishing; house management; hygiene; occupations; servants; sewing; dressmaking and the sickroom.

The Chicago public library Book bulletin for March includes besides the usual list of new books a special list on "Vocational and industrial education and vocational guidance." Terms "Vocational education and guidance" are well defined in the editorial column, and followed by notice of "Approved books on manual training." Under the title, "At the sign of the question mark" is a most interesting account of queries which come to the reference department and the clues by which their answers are found.

The subject of an excellent select bibliography in Library bulletin number 4 of the New York school of philanthropy is Juvenile delinquency—causes and treatment. This bibliography excludes the reports and proceedings of the state industrial schools, the Houses of the Good Shepherd and the Crittenden homes throughout the country, the various juvenile courts and probation associations, the state commissions, and the several state conferences of charities and correction, all of which contain valuable material.

The Springfield (Mass.) library bulletin for February exhibits the many sidedness of this library in its natural history museum notes on "Alien birds," the art museum note on "A collection of Chinese rosebacked egg-shell porcelain," and "Greek and Etruscan vases." Its excellent introductory notes on recent books greatly enhances the value of list of arti-

cles in the magazines and the catalog of book titles which follow. The March bulletin continues Notes on books of the month and calls attention to the open meetings of the Botanical, Geological, and Bird clubs, also to the amateur horticultural society weekly exhibits of flowers which children will display. Art notes for the month, "Jade," Egyptian art.

Agricultural college of Utah has issued a list of reference books compiled by the librarian, Elizabeth Smith. There is an explanation of the Decimal classification, card catalog, and a list of definitions of terms used in library economy.

The Virginia state library has issued a finding list of books of science, medicine, agriculture, technology, military and naval science, compiled under the direction of the assistant librarian, Earl G. Swem. This is a condensed catalog by classes with an author and subject index at the end.

The title page and index to authors of volume 16, 1911, of the "Monthly bulletin" of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh, are issued with the February, 1912, bulletin. The index to authors contains titles to fiction. This index effects a union of all the bulletins so as to make the volume practically an annual catalog.

The February bulletin notes the addition of a number of important Medici prints to the reference room and quotes reviews on Ross', "The changing Chinese" and Miss Hughan's, "American socialism of the present day." The technology department has recently completed the cataloging of its collection of about 5,000 trade catalogs received from leading manufacturing firms of this and other countries. Catalogs are indexed under the firm name and by subject.

An interesting innovation has been introduced at the Homewood branch. Each week articles of especial interest in the magazines are looked up by an assistant and slips of paper attached to the magazine to call attention to the articles. The table on which the magazines are displayed bears a sign, "Current topics." Many readers have been grateful for hav-

ing had their attention thus called to timely articles. It is more convenient and possibly more suggestive to the user than the ordinary bulletin board.

Interesting Things in Print

An illustrated article on the new central building of the St. Louis public library appears in *Architecture* (New York), February.

An interesting article, "Where shall I look?" by Frances Simpson, reference librarian, University of Illinois, appears in the *Bulletin* of the Illinois association of teachers of English for April.

The *Western journal of education* for March, 1912, contains an article on instruction in the use of libraries and books by Delia G. Ovitz, entitled, "Systematic training for obtaining information."

A pamphlet containing "The history of railroad taxation in Michigan," prepared by Professor Wilbur O. Hedrick, Michigan agricultural college, has been issued by the Michigan state library.

W. R. Reinick of the Philadelphia free library has distributed the reprints of his second contribution on "Insects destructive to books", which appeared in the *American Journal of Pharmacy*, November, 1911.

Suburban Life for April contains a very interesting description of the public library of Summit, N. J., under the title of "Operations of a model suburban library." The architectural features are also given considerable attention.

C. F. Langworthy of the United States department of agriculture has reprinted in pamphlet form, from the *Journal of Home Economics* his article on, "State and municipal documents as sources of information for institution managers and other students of home economics." His article is, in fact, an evaluation of a large number of publications of various organizations which constitute a source of information little known, even to the specialist. The librarians will find Mr Langworthy's article a most excellent and valuable tool for the reference desk.

The A. L. A. Program at Ottawa A foreword

The program for the A. L. A. conference at Ottawa is sufficiently under way so that the program committee can safely predict that it will be one of the most interesting and helpful that the association has ever discussed. As usual several outside speakers have been secured, and there has been a cordial and ready response on the part of those A. L. A. members who have been asked to participate. Particular effort has been made to secure a number of librarians who have not as yet appeared on the program of an A. L. A. conference.

The president, Mrs Elmendorf, has formulated a scheme of proposed topics for papers and discussions which, as unfolded from session to session, will offer a further development of the presidential address, the keynote of which will be "The concern of the community in the awakening and development of taste, or aptitude, in individuals." How the various activities of the library can affect, influence and direct this aptitude on the part of the individual will be discussed by various speakers at three of the general sessions. The committee have taken particular care in planning the sessions to allow time for discussion, and it is hoped that this early preview of the general trend of the program will give many the opportunity to frame in their own minds helpful suggestions and to see additional sidelights growing out of their personal experiences which at the conference may be imparted to the body at large.

Book buying, its opportunities and responsibilities in the development of taste, will be treated by Walter L. Brown, of the Buffalo public library. The open door afforded by the book and the library, the opportunity for comparison and choice, and the unhampered freedom of choice will be discussed from the library viewpoint by Miss J. Welles of the Pittsburgh Carnegie library, and Charles E. McLenegan, of Milwaukee, now a librarian, but formerly a teacher and high

school principal, from the point of view of the schools and general educational agencies outside the library. Book advertising, emphasizing the information that should be disseminated as to the subject and scope of books will be treated in a paper by Carl B. Roden of the Chicago public library. Certain phases in this development of aptitude in individuals come so close to the problems in the domain of the professional training section of the A. L. A. that one of the general sessions will be a joint session with that section, with the chairman, Mr M. S. Dudgeon, of the Wisconsin free library commission, presiding. Types of assistants, their knowledge and love of books, will be treated by Miss Hazeltine, of the Wisconsin library school, and Miss Tabbitt, librarian at Omaha, will discuss their ability to discern quality and essentials, and the effort to instill in them the need of giving information rather than advice. Adam Strohm, of the Detroit public library, will speak of the conservation of the staff, wholesome conditions necessary for work, and the need of sufficient compensation to permit the preservation of physical, mental and spiritual well-being. The last paper in this session will be presented by Mr Hadley, librarian of Denver, on the subject, "What library schools can do for the profession," calling attention to their weaknesses, as well as their points of strength, what they may reasonably be expected to do, whether they are doing these things, and whether they have the point of view regarding essentials and non-essentials and points for emphasis that librarians at large experience in actual practice. There is particular desire that this subject should be generally and freely discussed.

At the last session, on Tuesday, July 2, "Publicity" will be the theme. "Publicity for the sake of information" will be treated from the librarian's point of view by Miss Kelso, of New York, and from the outsider's point of view by the Hon. William H. Hatton, of New London, Wis., chairman of the Wisconsin free library commission. Sec. Carl H. Milam, of the Indiana public library com-

mission, will consider "Publicity for the sake of support."

Monday, July 1, will be in some respects "the great day of the feast." The morning session will be in the hands of our Canadian hosts, who will make "Canada Day" of the program. The arrangements are not completed, but the committee in charge hope to secure several prominent and influential Canadian men of affairs and education to address the conference. Opportunity will also be given to hear from our Canadian friends at the opening preliminary session on Wednesday evening, June 26, when words of welcome will be expressed. Responses will be made by President Elmendorf and Dr. Herbert Putnam, the head of our national library. Monday evening, President George E. Vincent, of the University of Minnesota, and ex-officio a member of the Minnesota library commission, will deliver an address, which is sure to be one of the memorable events of the week. It is probable there will be one or two other speakers from outside the A. L. A. membership.

The affiliated associations and sections of the A. L. A. have programs well in hand, but space forbids discussing them at this time. The local committee are planning a number of attractive social features, which will be chronicled when they have taken more definite shape.

G. B. U.

Fare from Chicago to Ottawa

A typographical error copied inadvertently from an A. L. A. proof-sheet in the April number of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*, gave an incorrect fare from Ottawa to Chicago. The fare will be \$20, plus the cost of sleeper. Reservations for the special train should be made with John F. Phelan, Public library, Chicago.

Greyfriars' Bobby (Harper & Co.) is a most delightful "dog" story. Children and grown ups will both enjoy it, though the Scotch dialect may be a little heavy for the former.

Conference of School Librarians

Much interest is manifested in the proposed conference of school librarians to be held in New York city, May 24-25. The meetings will be open to all who care to attend.

Friday will be devoted to visits to school libraries in New York and vicinity. (See *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* 17:141.)

On Saturday morning at the Girls' high school, Brooklyn, N. Y., a round table conference will be held. The first general topic for discussion will be, "How can we make the library of greatest service?"

Some phases of the subject discussed will be: "Adapting the classification to the needs of school work," by Esther M. Davis, Brooklyn training school for teachers; "The use of magazine and newspaper clippings," Elizabeth B. McKnight, Barringer high school, Newark, N. J.; "The school paper as a medium of communication between the librarian and the student body;" "Co-operation with public library," Katherine G. Grasty, Eastern high school, Baltimore; "Bulletin boards and their possibilities in school work;" "Student self-government in high school libraries."

Under the general topic of "Training students in the use of books," Ida M. Mendenhall, instructor in Library school, New York public library, will discuss "The value of systematic training," followed by Miss M. A. Newberry, Ypsilanti, Mich.

There will be reports from the following librarians:

Albany high school—Celia Houghton.
High school, Passaic, N. J.—Miss McClelland.

Morris high school, New York—Miss Hathaway.

Boys' high school, Brooklyn, N. Y.—Mr Parker.

Under the topic "Directing the reading of high school students," Anna Hadley, Gilbert school, Winsted, Conn., will present "Encouraging outside cultural reading aside from required work."

"Library reading clubs" will be discussed by Anna C. Tyler, New York

public library, and Miss Anthony, Packer collegiate institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.

On Saturday afternoon, there will be a joint meeting of teachers and librarians. The topic, "The library as a general factor in high school education," will be discussed. Dr William Dawson Johnston, librarian of Columbia university, New York city, will present an address and "Library reading and bulletin work in vocational direction," will be discussed by Henrietta Rodman, Wadleigh high school, New York city.

The library in department work: History, Dr James Sullivan, principal, the Boys' high school; Science, Dr. James E. Peabody, head of biology department, Morris high school, New York; English, Round-table of English teachers conducted by Herbert Bates, head of English department, Manual-training high school.

Further information concerning the meeting will be given on request, by Mary E. Hall, Girls' high school, Brooklyn, N. Y., or S. R. Parker, Boys' high school, Brooklyn, N. Y., President High school librarians' association.

American Association of Law Libraries

Annual meeting at Ottawa, Canada.

June 26-July 2, 1912

There will be two joint sessions; one with the National association of state libraries at which will be discussed the report of the committee on the proposed national legislative information service and other matters of interest.

The other joint session is one arranged by the American bibliographical society for the discussion of legal bibliography. The National association of state libraries and the Special libraries association will also take part in this session. Among the speakers promised are Dr John H. Wigmore, Dr G. E. Wire, F. B. Crossley, F. W. Jenkins and L. J. Burpee.

E. O. S. Scholefield, legislative librarian of British Columbia, will give an address on matters pertaining to law and legislative libraries in Canada. Papers on Canadian and English legal literature,

The growth and value of legal periodicals and The law library from the points of view of the judge, the attorney, the law student and the people, are proposed.

There will be a number of round table discussions which to many, are the most interesting parts of the program. The most important will be on the tentative list of headings for subject catalogues of law libraries which has been prepared by the Library of Congress. Strenuous attempts will be made to arouse interest in this list and call forth comments and suggestions which, it is hoped, may be of material assistance in approximating a definitive list of headings.

FRANKLIN O. POOLE, Sec'y.

Coming Meetings

Colorado

The Colorado library association will hold its first meeting at the Public library at McClelland, May 7-8.

Massachusetts

The annual meeting of the Massachusetts library club will be held in Springfield, June 6-7, 1912. The library clubs of central and western Massachusetts will unite in the meeting. All who are interested are cordially invited to attend. An attractive program is being arranged and the inspection of the new library building at Springfield offers additional attraction. Addresses will be on practical topics. The date has been set early in June so as not to conflict with the A. L. A. meeting at Ottawa.

Michigan

The annual meeting of the Michigan library association for 1912 will be held at Port Huron, September 3-5.

New York

Most cordially the regents of the University of the State of New York will on behalf of the State, and particularly of its educational forces, invite the friends of education throughout the United States and in other countries to the dedication of the New York State education building, on October 15-17, 1912. It is hoped that the educational officials of other states will attend, and

that the leading institutions—including libraries and museums as well as universities, colleges and schools—of this and other countries will be represented by delegates. Invitations and programs will be forwarded at the proper time. This preliminary announcement is made in order that the dates shall not be taken for any other important educational function in the country, and also that the public officials of New York and the leaders of education outside of the State may allot their time in October so as to permit of their attendance.

A. S. DRAPER,
Commissioner of Education.

Library Meetings

Chicago—The March meeting of the Chicago library club was held Thursday evening, the 14th, at the Chicago public library.

Mr W. N. C. Carlton read a paper on "The origin and character of the Icelandic sagas." Mr Carlton traced the early history and heroic character of the hardy Norsemen who settled Iceland, sketched the social and political conditions during the first centuries following the settlement, and showed how these sagas had their origin in the stories of daring, which grew naturally out of these conditions. Passed from lip to lip in Homeric fashion for generations these stories of heroes gradually assumed definite shape, until in the 12th and 13th centuries they were collected and edited by literary men in the form in which we now have them—prose narratives of historic or personal interest, simple, truthful, and almost modern in their realism and dramatic quality. Mr Carlton briefly analyzed the plots of the four greater sagas, the *Njal*, the *Egil*, the *Laxdaela*, and the *Eyrbyggia* Saga, and that of one of the minor group, the *Saga of Erik the Red*.

HARRIE EDNA BROOK, Secretary.

Connecticut—The annual meeting of the Connecticut library association was held in the State library at Hartford on February 29, 1912.

Governor Baldwin welcomed the association and sounded the call to arms. He said that perhaps librarians did not

realize their power of influence, especially with the young. Of old time it was said that lawyer-priest held the key of knowledge but now it was in the hands of the librarian. If all the results of the world's progress were burned except the books the heritage of humanity could be restored through them, and Connecticut is rich among states in this heritage and its record. Let us see that the people receive the benefit by the best possible administration of our trust, for the best library serves the most people with the best books.

Mr Godard gave a brief description of the splendid new building in which the meeting was held. He did not need to point out the quiet beauty and architectural dignity but he could help us to see in more detail how admirably it is planned to meet the needs of comfort, convenience and ease of administration. It houses the supreme court as well as the library, but each has ample quarters, with all future contingencies apparently foreseen and provided for. The building is as nearly fireproof as modern science can make it, even to the furniture and filing cases, which are of steel, and the very large space provided in vaults for the storage of valuable records make one congratulate Connecticut that she is insured against any such terrible calamity as befell her neighbor state.

A great pleasure was afforded the association in listening to two songs sung by Miss Grace Godard, a niece of the state librarian. She sang Marshall's "I hear you calling me" and Woodward's "An open secret," and was accompanied by Mrs F. M. Green.

After this interval of pure delight the association took up the business part of the meeting. The treasurer's and secretary's annual reports were read and accepted. The Committee on affiliation with the A. L. A. reported meetings and discussion but felt that more time was needed for consideration. It was moved by Prof. W. J. James and carried that the committee be continued and directed to report at the spring meeting.

A question box conducted by Miss

Sperry of the Silas Bronson library, Waterbury, centered chiefly on duplicate pay collections of popular fiction. The principal variation in practice brought out was between those making it a strictly duplicate collection, putting all the titles first in the free collection and duplicating for the pay if wanted and those trying out in the pay collection and duplicating for the free if wanted. Miss Pinneo of Norwalk said they avoided the *duplicate* pay feature by calling it a Library book club housed at the library for the convenience of readers. Miss Rockwell of New Britain said her board felt they could not use the city appropriation for the purpose, so invited subscriptions to a fund for the initial outlay, which subscriptions are being repaid from the earnings as it is possible. With them it is strictly *duplicate*.

A second question was: "In libraries not having apprentices, how is shelving and mechanical work done?" Various librarians described their methods of employing high school boys and girls at from 8 to 15 cents per hour, according to efficiency, and in some places getting volunteer help as apprentices in preparation for the paid work.

The nominating committee reported as follows: The nominating committee last year having to perform their duties during the noon intermission were unable to do what a committee appointed beforehand can do, that is, get the permission of those persons whom it seemed desirable to nominate. It unfortunately turned out that the secretary and treasurer elected felt obliged to decline. Consequently much unexpected difficulty came to Mr Latham, the president. The association is indebted to Miss Wilde who has acted as secretary during the interim, and to Miss Frances Russell who has served as treasurer during the year.

Mr Latham feels compelled to decline re-nomination for another year, as he says, "in justice to himself and to his library." The committee nominates for president one whom the association has desired in the past as its president, but who hitherto has declined nomination,

preferring to devote her energy without stint to other phases of the library interests of the state. We nominate for president, Miss Caroline M. Hewins,

Hartford public library.

Secretary—Miss Harriet S. Wright, New Britain institute.

Treasurer—Miss Lillian M. Stedman, Kent memorial library, Suffield.

Vice-presidents—Mr Chas. S. Thayer, Hartford theological seminary library; Mr J. S. Bard, Brooklyn; Mrs Lily Gunn Smith, Gunn memorial library, Washington; Mr Edwin Hallock, Derby; Mrs F. B. Munn, New Hartford.

The secretary, after a motion to that effect, cast a single ballot for the club.

The meeting then adjourned to enjoy the dinner provided by our hosts in the parlors of a neighboring church.

The afternoon session was devoted to accounts, by the librarians, of the activities of the ten Hartford libraries.

Mr Godard explained that the state library is in a real sense a library by the people, of the people and for the people. All have an interest in it—citizens, public officials, genealogists, students and all.

Miss Hewins spoke of the Hartford public library, which has grown from a subscription library to an important institution including, in addition to its own reference and circulating departments, the activities of the Wadsworth atheneum, and using various buildings outside of its main building. There are now branches in ten outlying schools.

Mr Frank B. Gay of the Watkinson library of reference gave a sketch of David Watkinson, founder of that library, and reviewed briefly its work in art, architecture, genealogy, Americana, Shakespearean and English classics, western European philology, European classics and insurance. This library contains 225,000 books and pamphlets, and is distinctly the university type of library.

Mr Albert C. Bates, librarian of the Connecticut historical society, said that the work of this organization now covers not only Connecticut but nearly the whole of New England. Its library contains about 35,000v.

The Trinity college library houses valuable medical, religious and scientific books. The librarian, Mr Walter B. Briggs, referred especially to its set of Audubon's work with colored plates and to important volumes relating to the history of the Navajo Indians.

Rev Charles S. Thayer gave a review of the institution of the Case memorial library at the Hartford theological seminary. It is practically a free public library for the study of theological subjects.

The work of the Hartford county bar library was described by Miss Hettie G. Baker, and that of the Hunt memorial (a medical library) by Miss Alice S. Griswold, the librarian.

Chancellor John G. Murray told of the Cathedral library. It is composed of 5,000v. dealing with biblical knowledge, and these are available to the people for theological research and reference purposes.

The session made apparent the splendid co-operation achieved by the different institutions whereby the loss from the overlapping of fields of activity is reduced to a minimum. The Connecticut public library commission being not, strictly speaking, a library, did not take part in the symposium, but was "at home" in the capitol building.

ALICE WILDE, Acting Secretary.

District of Columbia—The monthly meeting of the District of Columbia library association was held March 13. The speaker was Dr Philander P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education, who addressed the association on "Some needed extensions of the public library."

A great propaganda, he said, is needed in behalf of library extension in cities, especially in rural districts. Dr Claxton's strong personal interest in the movement was emphasized by the fact that he expressed his wish that there might be in the Bureau of Education five or six specialists to devote their time to doing all that could be done by the Bureau to aid such a propaganda.

District of Columbia—The last meeting of the season was held in the Public library Monday evening, April 8.

Dr I. M. Casanowitz, of the National museum, read a paper on early writing materials and inscriptions, speaking especially of the Egyptian papyri, describing briefly the making and the use of the papyrus and the contents of some specimens which have been preserved. His talk was illustrated by photographs of many interesting specimens, which were passed through the audience for examination. Dr Casanowitz closed by speaking of the inestimable value of the papyri which have been preserved, in contributing to our knowledge of antiquity.

Dr H. J. Harris, chief of the Documents division of the Library of Congress, then gave a short but very interesting talk on the new printing bill, the first codification of the printing laws since that of 1895. After sketching the history of the present Printing investigation commission, appointed in 1905 to revise and codify the printing laws, Dr Harris outlined some of the main features of the new bill, noting especially, as of particular interest to librarians, the revised provisions concerning the form and distribution of public documents. Among the provisions which the speaker noted as most important are the following:

Hereafter each document must be issued only under the designation first assigned it, so that the present duplications will cease to be possible; the distribution of unbound documents will be made less general, and certain publications in the form of documents will be discontinued; the Superintendent of Documents is authorized to sell any Government publication, and all committee reports may be distributed by him unless the committee expressly forbids; depository libraries will be allowed to select what they wish to receive, making their choice from lists of forthcoming documents to be furnished them from time to time by the Superintendent of Documents. On the whole Dr Harris considered the bill now

under consideration in Congress a very creditable attempt at a revised codification of the laws with such changes as are advisable.

Mrs Mary J. Sibley, director of the Syracuse University library school who was present with her graduating class, in response to an invitation from the president, spoke briefly concerning the Syracuse University library, and concerning the importance of the best books as a great influence in the development of the human race. The meeting was then adjourned and refreshments were served.

C. SEYMOUR THOMPSON,
Secretary.

Massachusetts—The 77th meeting of the Massachusetts library club was held at Chelsea, Thursday, January 25, 1912, with an attendance of about 150 people. President Belden called the meeting to order and introduced Hon. Eugene F. Endicott, chairman of the Board of trustees of the Chelsea public library, who gave the address of welcome.

Mr Belden read the following tribute:

"It is fitting that in the program of the day tribute should be given to the memory of the late librarian of the Manchester library, Delucena L. Bingham, who died at his home in Manchester-by-the-Sea on January 16, 1912, aged ninety-seven years and two months.

Mr. Bingham was a member of long standing in this Club. At the time of his death, he was the oldest active librarian in the Commonwealth, if not in the world. Nearly 80 years of his life were given to serving the library of his native town. Eager to learn, anxious to keep abreast of the development in the library world, devoted to the interests of his public, he embodied the commendable qualities of the faithful servant and gentle librarian."

Mr Tripp moved that the Club go on record as adopting the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Massachusetts library club respectfully requests the publishers of the *Reader's Guide to Periodicals* to remove from the list of magazines indexed, the *Cosmopolitan Magazine*."

The motion was carried unanimously.

In a tentative report the committee on co-operation between the Massachusetts library club, other library clubs of the state and the Free public library commission makes known its opinion thus:

1—The Massachusetts library club hold at least one of the three meetings of the year in the central or western part of the state, and that the January meeting be held in Boston or in its immediate vicinity.

2—That the local club or clubs unite with the Massachusetts library club in its meeting, when held in a convenient place, and so reduce the number of meetings which the various club members are asked to attend.

3—That the program of the Massachusetts library club meeting contain, if possible, some features of special interest to the librarian and trustees of the small library.

4—That the local club or clubs of the section of the state in which the Massachusetts library club holds its meeting have some part in making up the program for the meetings.

5—That so far as practicable the meetings of the Massachusetts library club be stated meetings, in order that the other clubs may arrange their sessions not to conflict. It is suggested that the Massachusetts library club hold its regular meetings during the third or fourth week in October, and during the third or fourth week in January and that the annual meeting be held the second Thursday in June, as provided for in the constitution.

6—That the executive committee of the Massachusetts library club be prepared, upon request, to give assistance in arranging programs for the smaller clubs, making use when necessary of information possessed by the Commission.

Regarding the co-operation between the Commission and local library clubs, the committee suggests that the small clubs arrange a two or three days' library institute to be in charge of the Commission, and at which the agent, with proper assistance, should give instruction in library administration, the use of reference

books, work with schools, repair of books, etc., and should make an exhibit of materials and aids of service to the small library.

Other suggestions were offered in the interest of co-operation in publishing library lists, etc., thus eliminating duplication of similar material in library publications; also to facilitate sale, gift and exchange of surplus books and magazines; to enlarge the scope of the Club *Bulletin*; to stimulate inter-library loan; to foster and develop library administration in small libraries; and further, that the committee should compile a list of speakers who may be obtained from libraries or through their help, and should place the same at the disposal of the executive committee of the Massachusetts club for use in making program suggestions to local clubs.

The Western Massachusetts library club was formed in June, 1898, in response to a circular letter sent out to 50 libraries in Western Massachusetts, and signed by W. I. Fletcher and J. C. Dana. The club has had three meetings a year, and early in its history much was made of the institute idea, these institutes being in the nature of round-table neighborhood gatherings, which discussed the most practical kind of problems which the small library has to face. Another characteristic feature has been the "open-house," kept, at the suggestion of the club, by large libraries in the section one day in the year as an opportunity for librarians of small libraries to make observations and get help.

The Berkshire county library club was organized in January, 1911. It was first intended to hold meetings every two weeks throughout the winter months and to pattern them after the staff meetings of large libraries. This plan was followed during the winter and spring of 1911. This year it has been voted to hold the meetings once every month beginning in December and continuing through April. As each meeting of this club is held in a different town, it is intended as far as possible to make some part of the program of general enough

interest to advertise the library and benefit the town in which it is held.

The Bay Path library club was the pioneer among the local clubs, being started in June, 1898, one week before the Western Massachusetts library club. Two meetings a year have been held and the club has sought by these meetings to promote relatedness between public libraries and their communities. It has, therefore, been the policy before each meeting to write to the local librarian to learn what subjects would be most pertinent in that particular town. The inner problems of the librarian have not been neglected, however, and have been discussed in round table sessions at the meetings.

The Southern Worcester library club was formed in Hopedale, March 1, 1906. The club has held 14 meetings in 10 different towns, extending from Ashland and Westboro on the north, to Bellingham and Uxbridge on the south. The attendance has varied from 75 to the original six. There are no dues, but the library or librarian entertaining the club bears the expense of the meeting, which usually consists of the carfare of the principal speaker and the postage of the notices.

The Cape Cod library club is now in its 13th year and has 111 members from about 25 libraries. One custom has been carried out each successive year, to the benefit of the individual and eventually the entire membership—that of sending delegates to the various state meetings, and, in some cases, to the meetings of the American library association. In each instance the club has met the expenses incurred by the trip. At the annual meeting, reports of these conferences are read and prove an important part of the program. On one occasion, an interesting feature was the roll-call, responded to by the librarians, each one giving a short account of any special line of work followed during the year. The responses were both varied and suggestive.

Anyone desirous of consulting the constitution, program of meetings, list of members, etc., of the older clubs can find

them in the Handbook of the library clubs of Massachusetts, issued by the Massachusetts library club, 1904, a copy of which will be sent to anyone by the secretary of the Massachusetts library club.

In giving an idea of present conditions and needs of libraries in the state, Miss Brown showed the large number of small libraries, their weakness as income lessens and their possibilities with adequate resources. This was most effectively done by means of a chart which showed in groups the percentage of libraries with various incomes and the percentage in each group with noticeably high or noticeably low circulation, since in a very general way the use of a library is indicated by its circulation.

The kinds of work carried on by the commission were shown to be gifts to libraries, co-operation with library meetings, visits to libraries, instruction in library administration and assistance in reorganizing, and answering numerous requests for information.

One way suggested to develop acquaintance between the larger library and its neighbors, is to open the library to them especially on some day, send invitations to the librarians and have people ready to show them about and answer questions. An invitation to look over a well-selected collection of juvenile books, for instance, with the children's librarian, would be of decided help. People prefer to take the advice of some person, rather than to use printed lists or directions, however valuable.

The commission is building up a considerable collection of lists and other library aids for use in library exhibits and to use in answering requests for information, and its aim is to make smaller libraries as efficient as possible under present conditions, thus proving their value to the community, and to stimulate local movements for larger incomes.

Miss Brown referred librarians to the forthcoming report of the commission for a full description of its work.

The afternoon session was given over to consideration of work with foreign-

ers, and the program was opened by Miss Dorothy Hopkins, of the Library Clubhouse, Hull Street, Boston, who read a poem entitled "The scum o' the earth," by Robert Haven Schauffler, published in the *Atlantic Monthly* for November, 1911.

The main paper was given by Miss Marguerite Reid, of the Foreign department of the Providence public library.

Miss Reid spoke with great enthusiasm of her work with "Our new Americans." In her department are about 7,500v. in 17 foreign languages. Each literature is kept separate and contains the classics for those who can never learn to read English easily. The literary taste of some of the foreigners, the Italians, for example, seems to be above that of the native American. The Italian barber reads Dante with avidity and is more familiar with Shakespeare than many of us. The Italian prefers poetry and drama to fiction, and enjoys the picturesque in literature, books of travel and fairy tales.

For those who are trying to learn English the library has inter-lingual grammars and reading books that are prepared especially for the adult immigrant with a vocabulary of trade terms that will help him in business. There are books on American civics, history, and travel to help the new citizen and explain the fundamental principles of our government. Books of this sort are being written in the foreign languages in simple fashion, but their production does not keep pace with the demand. Leaflets printed in foreign languages and explaining the use of the library are distributed at the registration desk, the night schools and clubs.

Miss Reid mentioned many aids in forming collections of foreign books and spoke of the excellent articles in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* on foreign language and literature.

In transforming the new comers into useful and law-abiding American citizens, the public library has an important place. It helps in adding to their enjoyment of life and for that reason assists in

making them better citizens by keeping open avenues of culture to the adults, hungry for literature in their own language and by offering knowledge of America through the medium of their own tongue.

Miss May Ashley reported that in Greenfield the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was engaged in the education of the adult Polish people, and that the work was carried on in the lecture hall of the library; also that the school libraries in the district schools were equipped with books and papers in French and Polish for the home use of parents.

Mr H. H. Ballard, of Pittsfield, is doing interesting work among his Italian constituency. From the New Jersey Immigrant society, he procured without cost, a large number of copies of Prof. Ellis's "Guida per gl' immigranti Italiani" for free distribution. This book treats of United States history, government and laws, state government, rights of voters, education and religion. From the North American civic league, Boston, copies of "Messages for newcomers" were bought for five cents each. The catalog of F. Tocci, 520 Broadway, N. Y., proved especially helpful. A leaflet in English and Italian containing the sentences most necessary to library business was prepared for the use of attendants, and a teacher was brought to the library to give all members of the staff necessary instruction. The employment of assistants of different nationalities is under consideration. Arrangements are made with large companies by which they make themselves responsible for any unpaid dues or damages on the part of their employees. The first visit of a stranger to the library is an occasion of joy, and he is started on his library life with the least possible red tape.

Mr O. C. Davis, of Waltham, said that his city has an unusually large number of foreigners who use the English language easily, and that everything was done to make this type of man feel at home in the library. The one who cannot read or speak English realizes that he

is handicapped in earning a living and the result is that he is eager to learn and responds freely to offers of help; but the English-speaking foreigner has no such incentive and easily drifts away from library influences.

Mr G. E. Nutting, of Fitchburg, reported, among other things, that Mr Dana's "Printing exhibit," illustrating the Correspondence course of the Typographical union, was of special interest to the Finnish printers in his city.

Finally, Mr G. H. Tripp, in his usual ready manner, told about his work among the French and Portuguese of New Bedford, and showed a carefully compiled list of French books and another one of books in the Yiddish language.

In the few moments left for discussion, Miss Quimby, of Winchester, said that her Italians wanted books in easy English and that she gave them graded readers. Miss Loring reported that the Irish of Beverly were taking a great interest in the Celtic revival.

Mr Bailey wrote that the experiment of issuing **new** fiction and juvenile books in **reinforced** bindings had proved almost a failure, as publishers were unable to anticipate the demand and librarians had not properly supported the scheme. Reinforced binding is a good thing, however, and if rightly advertised will be used more and more. The movement has been instrumental in making publishers realize that stronger bindings are desirable. Better bindings are now being used on some reference books as the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. The new edition of the *Century dictionary* will have the strongest binding that it is possible to give a machine sewed book.

A vote of thanks was extended to Miss Simpson and to the trustees of the Chelsea library for the hospitable treatment received at their hands.

New York—A regular meeting of the Long Island library club was held at the Prospect branch of the Brooklyn public library on the afternoon of February 15.

The program for the afternoon had been prepared with the purpose of showing the scope of some of the special li-

braries of the Borough of Brooklyn, and of making known the services which they can render to the general public. Each of the special libraries was represented by its librarian.

The library of the museum of the Brooklyn institute of arts and sciences aims, in the first place, to supplement the museum collections. Fine arts and natural science are the chief subjects covered by its 20,000 volumes, and it is especially rich in archaeology, Egyptology, history of art, bibliography of natural sciences, and entomology. This library is a working collection, is prepared to assist specialists, and is also free to the general public for reference.

The primary object of the Children's museum library is to arouse interest in nature, but its collection of books contains works on history, biography, geography, and travel, as well as popular works on nature and science. It is free for reference and is much used by teachers as well as children.

The library of the Long Island historical society has an interesting collection consisting chiefly of history (general as well as local), rarities, manuscripts, and Americana. The recent additions, aside from those made from special funds, are largely local history and genealogy. The library was formerly open only to members of the Historical society and their friends, but it has recently been made possible for other libraries to send readers there for a limited period of use. This library is for reference use only.

The library of the Medical society of the County of Kings has 70,000v. on medicine and allied subjects, and is one of the largest medical libraries in the country. Its collection of books is of such a special character that, although general use (for reference) is permitted, such use is not greatly encouraged. The library owns, in addition to its reference collection, a collection of duplicates which it loans to responsible borrowers (physicians, and other libraries).

The Law library in Brooklyn has several special collections of importance

(foreign law, Roman or Civil law, session laws of various states, etc.) in addition to its general collections. It is very cramped for space in its present quarters. The library is willing to help everyone coming to it, so far as its crowded quarters will permit, and to do as much for him as his needs seem to require, consonantly with its duties to those who have first claim on its services.

EDITH M. POMEROY,

Pennsylvania—The third regular meeting of the Pennsylvania library club was held in the auditorium of the H. Josephine Widener branch of the Free library of Philadelphia on the evening of February 19, 1912.

Dr Nolan, in a few words, presented the speaker of the evening, Mr John Thomson.

Mr Thomson gave a most enjoyable talk on "Anthony Trollope and his novels," giving a short account of his life and habits. Contrasting him with others as to their methods of writing, Trollope, as is well known, wrote 250 words every 15 minutes by the clock, turning out an enormous number of books, and creating many characters which have become household words, the Warden Harding, Mrs Proudie, the Uriah Heap-like Mr Swope, the genial Mrs Arabin and the King Lear-like Mr Crawley. One of the great characteristics of his books is their evenness of style and absence of sensationalism, yet creating a solid interest in their readers. Trollope had no ecclesiastical forbears and yet he wrote one of the best books on English Cathedral life ever produced. Having very little Parliamentary experience, his works known as the "Parliamentary series" are most informative to any person who wants to know the methods of the ordinary life of a member of Parliament.

Mr Thomson characterized "Orley Farm" as probably the best of all his books, but also proved that one or two others were equally as good, and perhaps better. His doctrine was that the four great novelists of the last century were Dickens, Scott, Thackeray and Trollope.

JEAN E. GRAFFEN, Secretary.

Library Schools

Carnegie library of Atlanta

During the week of March 18, Miss Edna Lyman gave her yearly instruction in children's work and the art of storytelling. In addition to her morning lectures Miss Lyman gave one afternoon program of Christ legends and Bible stories.

Miss Mary W. Plummer of New York gave her annual lectures on March 26-28. The subjects were: Administration of a small library, Librarianship, what is it? and Applied poetry.

During her stay, Miss Plummer very kindly read to the class, by request, Yeats' "Land of Heart's Desire."

Clare Moran, 1907, resigned her position in the Carnegie library of Atlanta, March 30. Her marriage to Paul Rapier of Mobile will take place April 17.

DELIA F. SNEED, Principal.

Carnegie library of Pittsburgh—Training school for children's librarians

The school closed for the Easter vacation March 30. The Spring term opened April 10.

At the close of the course in games and plays, a play festival was given at Washington Park, Saturday evening, March 23, under the direction of the Pittsburgh playground association. A folk dance was given by the students.

The director and a number of the students attended the district library meeting under the direction of Miss Downey, State organizer, at the Reuben McMillan free library, Youngstown, Ohio, on Thursday, April 18. The two days following were spent in visiting the Cleveland public library.

Alice S. Tyler, secretary and director of Library extension, Iowa library commission, lectured on "Library commission work in general" on Monday, April 22.

Mary Wright Plummer, principal of the Library school of the New York public library, lectured before the school on April 26.

Edna Whiteman, special student 1903-1904, of the children's department of the Cleveland public library, and formerly

story-teller for the Library extension story-hour committee, has been appointed instructor in story telling in the Training school. Miss Whiteman will also have charge of the story telling in the children's department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Louise Singley, class of 1909, has been appointed first assistant in the children's room of the East Liberty branch of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Drexel institute

During March and April several of the important shorter courses are given, including administration, binding, buildings, business methods and proof reading.

Business methods and proof reading are under instructors in the department of commerce of the institute. A visit to a printing establishment accompanies the proof reading course.

The library visit for the month was to the Free library of Philadelphia, where the librarian, Mr Thomson, spoke of the history of the library, and showed the plans of the proposed new building, after which the class were shown through the building.

On Saturday afternoon, March 30, the school had the pleasure of receiving the library school of Pratt institute, and on April 11, Syracuse University library school paid a short visit.

The Easter recess extended from Thursday through Easter Monday.

Caroline Webster, Drexel, 1900, as the second lecturer in the Alice B. Kroeger memorial lectures, spoke on Easter Monday on "Reading for rural communities." A number of the alumnae were present, as well as the class. W. H. Brett gave an illustrated lecture on the Cleveland public library.

Final examinations occupy the first week in May, immediately after which the class go for practice work, from May 6-17, as follows:

Carnegie library of Pittsburgh, Misses Abbott and Pooley.

Columbia University library, Misses Farr, Taber and Shoemaker after May 23.

Brooklyn public library, Misses Ryan, Amory, Ritchie.

Newark free library, Misses Heslop and Tough.

New York public library, Misses Farr, Freeman, Detweiler and Shoemaker.

Public library of the District of Columbia, Washington, Misses Black, Taber and Wolf.

Wilmington Institute free library, Miss Josenhans.

J. R. DONNELLY, Director.

New York public library

The visits to New England libraries came to an end March 29, and the new term began April 1 with every one looking reinvigorated after the week's rest and change.

The lecturers since the last report have been Dr Henry Leipziger, Edwin W. Gaillard, Edward H. Virgin, Caroline M. Hewins, Emma F. Cragin, William Warner Bishop and Miss Zaidee Brown.

The regular courses of the term are concerned with government documents, indexing, book-selection, periodicals, and the history of libraries.

Twenty-four hours a week are given to practice, and a number of students who have had more or less experience have already taken paid positions in the library.

The visits of the month to local libraries include the following:

Hispanic society of America, New York Geographical society, and the museum of the Numismatic society.

Columbia university and the Bryson library, Teachers' college.

United Engineering societies, American society of civil engineers, Y. M. C. A.

Mercantile, Cooper Union, and Society libraries.

On May 15, students will begin to take the annual school inventory.

Twenty-seven students have applied for the work of the second year.

Courses which have been applied for and which are now being worked out are:

- 1) In work for children, and with schools.
- 2) In advanced reference-work and cataloguing.
- 3) In general and administrative work.

On April 16, the school invited the

branch-librarians of the system to tea in the school-room, to meet the faculty. Since most of these have students and probationers practicing under their supervision, some of whom are likely to become permanent assistants, their interest in the working out of the school's plans is almost as keen as that of the faculty.

MARY W. PLUMMER, Principal.

New York state library

Immediately following the month of practice work in libraries outside of Albany, the school made its biennial visit to New England libraries, April 2-9. The following libraries were visited: Springfield City library, Worcester free public library, Clark University library, Worcester County law library, American antiquarian society, Boston public library, Simmons College library school, Boston Book Company, Massachusetts state library, Harvard university, Boston atheneum, Brookline public library, Providence public library, Providence atheneum, John Carter Brown library, John Hay memorial library of Brown university, the Annmary Brown memorial, Medford public library and Salem public library.

A rather large number of individual visits to libraries not on the regular itinerary were made by students interested in particular lines of work. The Riverside Press and several noted museums, such as the Essex institute and the Springfield museum were also visited. A feature of the trip was the large number of library buildings either new or extensively enlarged since the visit of the school in 1910.

Mr Hepburn, president of the New York State library school association, is anxious to obtain from the officers of all classes which have maintained any organization since leaving the school, any information they may have concerning members of their respective classes. This should be sent by June 1, to William M. Hepburn, Purdue University library, Lafayette, Ind.

The number of applications for admission to the summer session makes it necessary to repeat the notice that no session

can be arranged this year on account of the delay in finishing the new State Education building and the uncertain date when the school will be obliged to move from its present temporary quarters.

F. K. WALTER.

Pratt institute

The attention of those interested in the school is called to the account of the new course in normal training for library work to be offered by the school next fall, which will be found on page 177 of this issue.

The annual spring trip, March 29-April 8, included visits to Princeton, Bryn Mawr, University of Pennsylvania, Drexel institute, Public library and the Library Company of Philadelphia, Wilmington, Annapolis and many of the libraries of Washington, among them the Library of Congress, Public library of the District, the Government printing-office, library of the Bureau of Education, of the Department of Agriculture, and of the Smithsonian institution. Thanks to friends at court, the school was received by President Taft, attended a special musical cavalry drill at Fort Meyer, given for the members of Congress, and witnessed the opening of sessions of the Senate and House from the members' galleries. Many social courtesies were extended, and the trip was one of the most delightful that the school has ever enjoyed.

Alumni notes

Charlotte E. Wallace, '97, has resigned from the headship of the circulating department of the Seattle public library in order to spend two years in study and travel abroad. Ethel R. Sawyer, '06, who has been Miss Wallace's first assistant, will succeed her in the headship of the department.

Margarethe Fritz, '03, resigned in November last from the librarianship of the Volksbibliothek of Berlin to accept the position of assistant-librarian in the Amerika-Institut of Berlin.

Marion L. Crowell, '08, first assistant in the circulating department at Pittsburgh, has accepted the librarianship of

the Public library at La Grande, Ore., where she will begin work May 15.

Margaret Fullerton, '10, has been appointed assistant in the State library at Columbus, O.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,
Vice-Director.

Western Reserve university

The outside lecturers in the book selection course this month have been Miss Wild, professor of Biblical history at Lake Erie college, and Mr Ward, technical librarian of the Cleveland public library. Miss Wild lectured on "Biblical literature," giving an unusual insight into the beauties of this particular kind of literature in a most inspiring way.

This year on its lectureship foundation the Alumni association presented Mrs Elmendorf, who lectured on "Poetry for light, strength, and power," Friday afternoon, March 29, in the rooms of the library school. This lecture, to which the alumni and many friends were invited, was one which aroused much enthusiasm, and gave keen delight to those present.

Vivien Mackenzie, '11, librarian and statistician, department of public health and sanitation, Cleveland, has resigned her position to accept the librarianship of the Oahu college library at Honolulu, Hawaii.

Summer schools

The University of North Dakota will offer a course in library training at the Summer school at Grand Forks, June 17-July 27. The course is intended to meet the needs of library workers who can not take a regular library school training and for teachers in charge of school libraries. The instructors will be Mrs Minnie Clark Budlong, secretary of the North Dakota library commission, Ada Durand, librarian in the Grand Forks public library, C. W. Sumner, university librarian and other members of the university library staff.

Pennsylvania

A summer school library of six weeks will be held at the University of Pennsylvania under the direction of Miss June

R. Donnelly of Drexel institute. The class is for the benefit of those who are already in the library profession or teachers who have connections with school libraries. The fee for the general course will be \$20, for a partial course \$5.

Miss Donnelly will be assisted by Louise Heims, librarian of Wake-Forest college, and Amena Pendleton, the latter of whom will have charge of the children's work. Other assistance will be given when necessary.

News from the Field

East

Professor G. H. Palmer of Harvard has presented to the university library his rare collection of the writings of George Herbert. The collection contains 160v.

Caroline A. Farley, for 16 years librarian at Radcliffe college, died at her home in Cambridge, March 14, aged 65 years.

Laconia (N. H.) public library reports an expenditure of \$6,006; circulation, 44,954; readers, 2,235, being 20 per cent of the population.

Andover (Mass.) public library reports 19,490v. on the shelves; additions, 549v.; circulation 32,621v., being five per capita; fiction 70 per cent.

Salem (Mass.) public library reports 55,136v. on the shelves; total circulation, 104,321v.; fiction, 80 per cent. Enlargement in the service and the opening of the children's department call for increased appropriations.

Leominster (Mass.) public library reports 24,636v. on the shelves; circulation, 70,000v.; expenditures, \$5,262. There is a public museum connected with this library from which lantern slides are loaned to the public schools.

Winchester (Mass.) public library reports total volumes on the shelves, 22,721; circulation, 45,120v.; expenditures, \$3,249. The growing demand for the circulation of music scores is noted. Eleven photographic exhibitions on special subjects, historical, geographical and literary were held during the year.

Frances S. Wiggin (Pratt, '04), who has been instructor in library science at Simmons college, Boston, for eight years, will not return to that work next year. She is to sail for Europe early in June, to be gone until September 1. After that her address will be North Pepperell, Mass., where she and her sister own a small farm.

Attleborough (Mass.) public library reports 14,990v. on the shelves of which 1,282v. were added during the year; circulation, 54,461v.; fiction, 76 per cent. The library received a number of gifts of which the most notable were the bequest of \$1,000 from Sarah F. Drown, also an addition to the original gift of D. H. Smith of \$3,000. Over 12,000v. were circulated through the schools.

No lecture course was planned by the library trustees for 1911, this work seeming to be a duplicate of similar efforts on the part of churches, clubs, women's clubs and the Y. M. C. A. The lecture hall was rented to the Teachers' association, to the Equal suffrage league, and to the Anti-Tuberculosis league.

Central Atlantic

The Enoch Pratt free library, Baltimore (Md.), closes the 26th year of its work, which was begun over a quarter of a century ago under the direction of Dr Lewis H. Steiner, having an extended library system consisting of the large main library and 15 branches, under the direction of his son, Dr Bernard H. Steiner. Six of the branches have been built by funds derived from the Carnegie gift. The expenditures of the library for 1911 were \$81,246, of which \$15,906 was for books and \$41,641 was for salaries of the library staff. Books on shelves, 288,252; accessions for the year, 17,166, of which 3,971 were re-placements; circulation, 598,215v.; fiction and juveniles, 77 per cent; reference use, 79,441v., 207,511 magazines; officers and employees, 110.

An interesting table of comparative statistics of some 30 libraries of the country is appended; population, buildings, income, salaries, use, etc., are subjects in comparison.

General James A. Gary, president of the board of trustees of the Enoch Pratt free library, and one of the original trustees, appointed by the founder of the library, the late Enoch Pratt, has retired from his position. Judge T. J. Morris, vice-president, who served as chairman of the library committee for 20 years, has also resigned. Both gentlemen will continue as members of the board, but they felt they desired to retire from the responsibility of their respective offices. Charles J. Bonaparte, former U. S. attorney-general and Judge Henry Stockbridge were appointed to the vacancies.

Within the compass of a little over five compactly printed well head-lined pages, the Binghamton (N. Y.) public library presents the report of a library which exhibits every variety of library activity. Circulation, 156,999v.; accessions, 2,966v. The book purchase is classified and the book fund analyzed by classes, showing the proportionate expenditure for the various classes. Expenditures, \$11,628; books, periodicals and binding, \$3,241; salaries and labor, \$5,815. A new ventilating plant has been installed, and the library building re-decorated; re-shelving of books has made possible the placing of a collection of technical books in the gallery where they would be more convenient to access; increased use has resulted. Special lists and bulletins have been sent to shops, factories, labor unions and the chamber of commerce, etc. The newspapers have printed 187 columns relating to the library and its various activities. Besides six special exhibits held at the library, the library itself contributed to an exhibit at the State teachers' association at Albany, and also occupied two booths at the big local industrial exhibition where several thousand cards descriptive of the opportunities presented by the library were distributed.

The library acted as host on the occasion of the "Library round-table," and of the "Farm and library conference."

Subjects are enumerated of upwards of 50 book lists which have been prepared, and of 24 story-hour periods and 14 free

lectures given at the library by various persons, besides history talks by the librarian in seven schools, reaching 1,250 pupils and talks on "Some good stories" by the children's librarian to 950 pupils in the fourth and fifth grades.

The Buffalo (N. Y.) public library report for 1911 records 300,512 books on the shelves; borrowers' cards in force, 118,783; (re-registration of borrowers takes place every three years). Circulation, 1,463,315v., an increase over the preceding year of 94,890v.; fiction, 59%. Expenditures were \$117,304; books and periodicals, \$29,890; salaries of the library staff, \$49,698. No record of reference and reading room use is kept. Notable gifts during the year were 1,135 music scores, mostly for the violin from Dr. Stephen Y. Howell, and from the heirs of the late Joseph Mischka, 800 books, pamphlets and scores.

Library advertising has been carried on in various ways, each branch advising its neighborhood by circulars and posters. A general circular, "Have you used the library?" has been widely distributed, some merchants wrapping it in with their parcels. Without independent branch buildings, and with no branch open more than seven hours per day, 50% of the circulation of books is effected by distributing agencies, outside of the main library. Although the total of circulation shows large increase, that from the central library during the past three years has fallen off 100,000v. An interesting map of the district surrounding the last opened branch (Utica st.) graphically illustrates the response to increased library facilities for centers of city population, a mile or more distant from the main library. Within this district in less than a year's time, 3,200 residents who had never before used the library became borrowers. The need of branch buildings and suitable children's departments is urged. The statistics of class room circulation show 11v. per capita for children of the grammar grades. Not the least interesting and suggestive feature of the system of distribution of books in

this library is its adaptation of means to various classes of readers and various localities. Further off-setting the lack of branch buildings are the traveling libraries, 169 of which were sent to individuals, to women's clubs, churches, missionary societies, special study classes, factories, hospitals, settlement houses, Sunday schools, engine houses, and police stations.

Central

Chariton (Iowa) public library reports a circulation of 18,474v.; fiction, 46 per cent.

Duluth (Minn.) public library reports 52,872v. on the shelves; circulation, 189,558v. Average Sunday attendance was 100.

Carrie Akin, for the past two years librarian of Winnetka, was married, March 19, to Samuel G. Clifford of Evansville, Ind.

Mr Carnegie has recently made the following gifts to Ohio towns for library buildings: Pickerington, \$10,000; Pomeroy, \$10,000; Tiffin, \$25,000.

The County commissioners of Paulding county have agreed to appropriate not less than \$5,000 a year for a county library.

Clarinda (Iowa) reports 19,252v., with a circulation of 62,722; children's books, 35 per cent.; adult fiction, 63 per cent. A local history collection has been established.

Ernest R. Buckley, the eminent geologist, has bequeathed \$20,000 to the city of Tomah (Wis.), his birthplace, to be used for a public library, playground or park.

The annual report of the Public library of Marietta, O., records a circulation of 32,111v., with 13,669v. on the shelves; volumes added, 500; expenditures, \$3,778.

The marriage of Edna Fairchild, formerly of the John Crerar library staff, later in the library of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Colvert G. Pier of Wausau, Wis., took place, March 9.

Ethel McCollough of the Wisconsin library commission staff has been appointed librarian of the Carnegie libraries of Evansville, Ind.

The choral music of the Orpheus club, Cincinnati, has been donated to the Cincinnati public library. The music will be cataloged and loaned to musical clubs, choirs and singing clubs of Hamilton county. The Apollo club also recently donated a large collection of classical music to the library.

The report of the Minneapolis public library emphasizes its need for a new central library building. It also sets forth the policy of the library of extending the benefits of the library to various communities throughout the city rather than to give more complete service to the scholarly in one main building.

Miss Rosalie Mumford, B. L. S., Albany, has been appointed to take charge of the new Open shelf room of the Detroit public library. Miss Mumford's home is in Detroit and she was an assistant in this library for several years before going to the library school. Since graduation she has been employed mainly in the Louisville public library.

James J. Hill, the railroad magnate, announces that he will build and maintain in St. Paul a reference library costing \$750,000. The action of Mr. Hill makes it possible for the city to erect a city library building to cost \$500,000. Following Mr. Hill's announcement the Association of commerce arranged to raise \$126,000 for the purchase of a site for the new buildings. Bonds for \$500,000 will be issued for the construction of the library. The completed structure, including the Hill reference library, will represent an expenditure of \$1,250,000.

The annual report of the Cleveland public library for 1911 records a circulation of 2,395,888v., an increase of 6.6%; registration, 138,957, of which 5.6% belongs to 1911; additions to the library, 26,962v., an addition of 6.1%.

One new branch building was opened, one was completed and three others are

under way. Several sub-branches were opened. The technical librarian has been given the supervision of the high school branches. The need of larger and safer quarters for the library is emphasized.

The public library of Rockford (Ill.) has taken advantage of the recent, "Made in Rockford" exhibition at the Coliseum to place itself in line with other institutional and commercial activities of the city. Bulletins setting forth the resources of the library were posted showing the resources in the useful arts and municipal affairs. Another bulletin traced the history and development of the library from 1872 to date, also the parallel development of city and library from 1881 to 1911. Picture bulletins, reading lists, traveling libraries for the schools, cases of technical magazines for artisans were shown by an assistant from the library, who was in constant attendance. On Thursday which was Grange day the resources of the library upon which the farmer might call were especially exploited.

South

Norfolk (Va.) public library reports books on shelves, exclusive of public documents, 21,072; home use, 91,418; reading room use of periodicals, 20,038. An increase of \$2,000 for maintenance is urged. The librarian is William Henry Sargeant.

Mary F. Weil, graduate of the Wisconsin library school, has been elected librarian of El Paso to succeed Miss Durlin, who has resigned her position to be married. Miss Weil has served in the Carnegie library at Pittsburgh, the Public library at Madison and more recently, in the Chicago public library.

Brooks county (Ga.) library celebrated the 32nd anniversary of its founding on February 27. This library which is probably the oldest institution of its kind in Georgia, contains many valuable books and relics of various kinds and has had an unbroken record of usefulness.

Anna V. Pollard has been elected librarian and George T. Settle, assistant

librarian of the Louisville public library. Their term of office expires on October 1, 1912. Miss Pollard was assistant to the former librarian, Mr Yust, who has accepted the position of librarian at the Rochester public library. Mr Settle was order clerk previous to his late appointment.

The report of the Rosenberg library of Galveston, Texas, of its work for the past year, is a model of brevity and comprehensiveness. In two pages the work of the library is displayed as on a canvas and no part or place of work is omitted. The year's work has been one of growth and interest.

Sarah Frierson of Athens (Ga.) for 25 years librarian of the University of Georgia, died March 10, age, 73. Two years ago, at the close of her 25 years of service, Miss Frierson was pensioned under the Carnegie foundation fund. She was greatly beloved by students and faculty.

Enthusiastic interest is being manifested by the rural schools in Alabama in the establishment of rural school libraries, in accordance with the plan suggested by an enactment of the last legislature, authorizing the State superintendent of education to appropriate \$10 per annum each to ten rural schools in each county, the amount to be used as a library fund under the condition that the patrons of the school subscribe an equal amount. In addition to the \$10 appropriation by the state, the Montgomery county board of revenue has agreed to appropriate a similar amount to that to be appropriated each year by the state under the same conditions, that is, provided the fund is annually increased by the patrons of the school making application through their county superintendents of education for their libraries.

The Dallas (Tex.) public library will open its auditorium in May to the Associated advertising clubs of America for an exhibit display of advertising methods. One of these features will be an exposition of a complete advertising campaign with demonstrations and illustrations showing every stage of work from

the first conception to the final follow-up letter. This demonstration will be prepared and presented by the representative clubs of New York. Another interesting display will show the method of studying advertising now used in Columbia university.

On February 26 this library afforded to the public the rare treat of hearing Seumas McManus read and tell his own stories. The library believing that the appearance of the Irish story teller and writer would result in interesting many in the Celtic revival has prepared an annotated list of books on Irish literature.

Pacific Coast

On Charter day, March 23, the University of California library was formally opened. This is said to be one of the most beautiful library buildings in the country, built of light gray California granite with a red tile roof. The entrance, with its massive bronze doors, through the white marble vestibule with its carved benches and tall bronze lamps on either side, leads one into the main corridor of white Italian marble. The delivery hall on the second floor with its beautiful moulded arches, central pillars and connecting cornices of Caen stone is very beautiful. Light is received through skylights and a series of bronze lamps, suspended by chains from the ceiling. The great vaulted hall, 210 feet long and 53 feet wide used for the reading room, with its marble and bronze appointments, its beautifully decorated walls and ceiling, is the most magnificent room in the building.

The same degree of beauty prevails throughout the building with its large number of seminar rooms, the quarters of the University Press, the rooms of the magnificent Bancroft library balancing the periodical room on the opposite side, each 88 x 61 feet, and various offices necessary in the administration of the institution.

The building was designed by John Galen Howard, head of the department of architecture in the university and author of the building plan adopted for the campus.

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Mrs. H. L. Elmendorf, first woman president of American library association